

1 [Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 1085 (Stefani) - License Plates: Obstruction or  
2 Alteration]

3 **Resolution supporting California Assembly Bill No. 1085, License Plates: Obstruction**  
4 **or Alteration, introduced by Assemblymember Catherine Stefani, strengthening the law**  
5 **to impose fines for the manufacture or sale of a product or device in California that**  
6 **obscures, or is intended to obscure, the reading or recognition of a license plate by**  
7 **visual means.**

8  
9 WHEREAS, Public agencies rely on automatic license plate readers (ALPRs) for  
10 enforcement and electronic tolling; and

11 WHEREAS, Illegal license plate covers allow drivers to conceal their vehicles license  
12 plates, shielding them from accountability; and

13 WHEREAS, Local law enforcement use license plate numbers to identify vehicles that  
14 have been involved in theft, robberies, and sidseshows.

15 WHEREAS, Automated enforcement of speed, red light infractions, and transit-only  
16 lane use helps protect pedestrians, transit riders, cyclists, and other motorist from dangerous  
17 and illegal driving behavior; and

18 WHEREAS, ALPRs are also essential for administering electronic tolling and express  
19 lane programs; and

20 WHEREAS, Scofflaws using these covers are undermining public safety and place a  
21 burden on the tolling system; and

22 WHEREAS, According to a report from Inside Your World, up to \$305 million a year is  
23 lost to uncollected toll across states using ALPRs; and

24 WHEREAS, The Bay Area Tolling Authority estimates \$1.4 million in losses from  
25 license plate covers from the previous fiscal year; and

1           WHEREAS, The California Vehicle Code already prohibits a person from altering their  
2 license plate or license plates' reflective coating in order to evade electronic capture of the  
3 license plate, for any reason; and

4           WHEREAS, The California Vehicle Code already prohibits the sale of a product or  
5 device that obscures, or is intended to obscure, the reading or recognition of a license plate

6           WHEREAS, Assembly bill 1085 strengthens the law by imposing a fine of \$2,500, and  
7 up to \$10,000 with penalty assessments added by the court, for the manufacture or sale of a  
8 product or device in California that obscures, or is intended to obscure, the reading or  
9 recognition of a license plate by visual means; and

10          WHEREAS, The bill also prohibits the use of a shade or tint that obstructs or impairs  
11 the reading or recognition of a license plate by an electronic device operated by state or local  
12 law enforcement, an electronic device operated in connection with a toll road, high-occupancy  
13 toll lane, toll bridge, or other toll facility; and

14          WHEREAS, This bill is critical to the safety of residents and functionality of public  
15 agencies; now, therefore, be it

16          RESOLVED, That The San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby supports Assembly  
17 Bill 1085; and, be it

18          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board  
19 to transmit copies of this Resolution to Governor Gavin Newsom, President pro-Tempore Mike  
20 McGuire, Speaker of the State Assembly Robert Rivas, and the offices of San Francisco's  
21 State delegation