

Submitter: Richard Mills
On Behalf Of: Self
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB4105

Chair Warner and members of the committee, I need to share a story regarding photo red light tickets. My youngest son received one from Seattle. At the time of the alleged offense he my son was at Army Basic Training at Ft Sill in Oklahoma. Needless to say it was physically impossible for him to run the red light. It was over two years before we learned of the ticket, when Seattle's debt collectors called my house looking for my son. In that two year period my son had been at Ft Sill, Ft Huachuca, Ft Hood, Afghanistan and Qatar. Unsurprisingly he never received notice of the ticket before a default judgment was entered and he was turned over to debt collection.

Seattle's attitude was essentially that my son had a duty to apprise DMV of his mailing address anytime the Army sent him somewhere. Bear in mind that some moves can be very short notice, and mail delivery to Afghanistan was not very fast.

My son was very distressed by this incident, and concerned that it could jeopardize his top secret security clearance, since the Army checks debt records as part of the periodic reviews.

The ticket never should have been issued to a Active Duty member of the military. With the information that DMV has it is easy to check the active duty status of any person. I believe that the Dept of Defense website for that purpose can handle batch checks. I also confident that there are companies that can be paid to do these searches, since it is required before anybody can file a lawsuit. It is against federal law to take a default judgment against a person without checking active duty military status and notifying the court.

Photo issued citations should have the same restrictions.

I realize this is off topic, but I have testified on three other occasions on this matter and no action has been taken to protect our active duty military from wrongful photo traffic citations.

Respectfully,

Richard H. Mills