



# SB 1279 (Gonzalez) Long Beach PCH Speed Safety Act

## SUMMARY

---

Senate Bill (SB) 1279 would expand the State’s existing speed camera pilot program to a portion of the Pacific Coast Highway running through the City of Long Beach that has seen an increase in speed-related fatalities.

## EXISTING LAW

---

Assembly Bill (AB) 645 (Friedman, Chapter 808, Statutes of 2023) established a pilot program for the use of automated speed safety systems in six California cities, including the City of Long Beach, for a maximum of five years up to January 1, 2032. The bill did not allow for state highways in a city’s jurisdiction to be included in the program.

SB 1297 (Allen, Chapter 631, Statutes of 2024) authorized the City of Malibu to expand the pilot program to the portion of the Pacific Coast Highway running through their city’s limits, and required revenues raised through the program going to cover the costs of traffic-calming measures.

AB 289 (Haney, Chapter 684, Statutes of 2025) authorizes the Department of Transportation to establish a similar speed camera program, specifically within state highway construction or maintenance areas.

## BACKGROUND/PROBLEM

---

The City of San Francisco is one of the initial six cities included in the speed camera pilot program established under AB 645. According to a study by the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, in the first six months since the speed cameras have been activated, San Francisco has seen a 72% decrease in speeding.<sup>1</sup> Similarly in New York City, speed cameras reduced traffic crashes by 14% and decreased speeding violations by 75%.<sup>2</sup>

According to state data from the last 10 years, Long Beach is California’s 8<sup>th</sup> deadliest city for crashes on both surface streets and freeways. This includes 54 traffic related fatalities in the City in just 2025 alone.<sup>3</sup>

While state highways only account for 11 miles of Long Beach’s 217 arterial miles of roadway, they account for 52 of its 192 crash fatalities since 2020. This means that 27% of the City’s crash fatalities have occurred on less than 1% of its roads. Unfortunately, under the current Pilot Program, the City cannot deploy speed cameras along this dangerous corridor despite the potential safety benefits they can provide.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sfmta.com/blog/our-speed-cameras-are-working-initial-evaluation-shows-drivers-are-slowing-down>

<sup>2</sup> NYC speed cameras take six months to change driver behavior, effects vary by neighborhood | NYU Tandon School of Engineering

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/long-beach-deadly-crashes-2025/3821908/>

## **SOLUTION**

---

SB 1279 addresses this serious public safety concern, by expanding the existing speed camera pilot program to Long Beach's portion of the Pacific Coast Highway. Including this small portion of state highway in the pilot program will lower fatalities, ensure that any revenue generated is used for traffic-calming measures, and contribute additional data to the results of the already-established pilot program.

SB 1279 follows the example of SB 1297 (Allen, Chapter 631, Statutes of 2024), and requires that the section of PCH included in the program would adhere to the guidelines laid out in AB 645. These guidelines include that:

- Clear signage must indicate the area will be "Photo Enforced", with flashing beacons.
- Photographic records must be confidential and only used for purposes of the pilot.
- A vehicle's first violation for traveling 11 to 15 miles per hour over the posted speed limit shall only be a warning notice.
- For subsequent violations, a penalty of \$50 shall be assessed for drivers going 11 to 15 miles per hour over the posted speed limit, \$100 for 16 to 25 miles over, \$200 for 26 miles or more over the posted speed limit, or \$500 for a speed of 100 miles per hour or more.
- For indigent speed safety violation recipients, the City must offer community service or educational programs in lieu of paying any penalty.
- If neither of the above programs are taken up by an indigent speed safety violation recipient, the City must offer payment plans of \$25 per month or less, and reduce applicable fines by 80%.

## **SUPPORT**

---

City of Long Beach (Sponsor)

## **CONTACT**

---

Sunny Snell, (916) 651-4033  
Legislative Aide, Office of Senator Lena Gonzalez  
[sunny.snell@sen.ca.gov](mailto:sunny.snell@sen.ca.gov)