



## SB 296 – DODD VEHICLE CAMERAS – PRIVACY

### Summary

SB 296 will prohibit images and video recordings collected through an in-vehicle camera from being used for any advertising purpose or sold to any third party. SB 296 will also require customers to be notified at point of sale that a camera is in the vehicle. Nothing in SB 296 will prohibit the use of interior cameras that are limited to traffic safety purposes.

### Background

There has been a growing trend towards the installation of in-vehicle camera equipment in consumer vehicles. The common types of in-vehicle cameras are back up cameras and camera blind-spot monitoring systems. Back up cameras provide a live picture while the driver is in reverse. The newer kind of camera—the blind-spot monitoring systems—detects other vehicles that are located near the driver’s side and rear and alerts the driver.

The latest in-vehicle camera, which faces inward, has raised concerns. Though these cameras can provide certain benefits, such as the potential to detect impaired or distracted driving, there are also consequences that come with most technology.

The recordings from inward-facing vehicle cameras hold much value to third parties, including advertisers and data brokers, and vehicle manufacturers may be attracted to the alternative sources of income that they can make.

SB 296 is similar to Senator Wieckowski’s SB 346 that passed the legislature with overwhelming bipartisan support in 2022.

### Existing Law

In California, a person or entity is prohibited from providing a voice recognition feature without informing the user or person designated by the user to perform the initial installation. Any recordings of spoken communication shall not be sold or used for advertisement. Further, a manufacturer of a new motor vehicle with one or more recording devices must disclose that fact in the owner’s manual.

Compelling a manufacturer or other entity to build specific features in order to monitor communications is prohibited, and a person is allowed to bring an action in tort for an invasion of privacy. Individuals are liable for invasion of privacy when they attempt to capture images and sound recordings of another individual in a manner that is offensive and invasive.

### This Bill

SB 296 will place restrictions on the retention and transfer of video recordings from in-vehicle cameras, and it will prohibit compelling an entity to build special features that monitor communications. Consumers should not have to take action to prevent their in-vehicle video recordings from being taken without their permission or knowledge.



### **Support**

Consumer Federation of California

### **Opposition**

None on file.

### **Contact**

Nina Nguyen, [Nina.Nguyen@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Nina.Nguyen@sen.ca.gov)