

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SENATOR ELVI GRAY-JACKSON  
SENATE DISTRICT G

## **Sponsor Statement: SB 235**

### **Automated Traffic Safety Camera**

Alaskans are enduring an unprecedented surge in fatalities and serious injuries from motor vehicle crashes – including those involving pedestrians and cyclists – at a time when police departments across the state are gravely understaffed, meaning that in-person traffic enforcement is functionally impossible and presents a difficult challenge for law enforcement.

Senate Bill 235 establishes that a local government may use automated traffic enforcement through traffic safety cameras. This law addresses an outdated requirement that red light enforcements must be done strictly by police officers who must directly serve tickets in person.

Local governments are doing everything in their power to hire and retain public safety personnel and to make local operations more efficient. This legislation would enable local governments to be able to strengthen traffic safety in a cost-effective manner, while still prioritizing law enforcement's role in safeguarding public safety.