

LEGAL SERVICES

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MEMORANDUM

March 2, 2026

SUBJECT: Meaning of "may not"
(CSSB 235(CRA); Work Order No. 34-LS1407\N)

TO: Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson
Attn: Jamie Bagley

FROM: Andrew Dunmire 
Legislative Counsel

You asked whether CSSB 235(CRA) would force municipalities with a population above 25,000 people to install traffic cameras. It would not. The bill says that municipalities above that population threshold "may not ban the use of automated traffic safety cameras." According to the *Manual of Legislative Drafting*, "may not" is used "to impose a prohibition upon someone."¹ In contrast, "shall" is used "to impose a duty upon someone."² This bill says that those municipalities "may not ban the use of automated traffic safety cameras," but it does not use the word "shall" and therefore does not impose a duty on any municipality.

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¹ Page 66.

² *Id.*