

## Alabama Implements E-citations

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Alabama's law enforcement and court officials will begin to distribute an electronic citation application, after two years of planning, design, development, and testing. The application allows state troopers or police officers to quickly fill out moving violation tickets on their computers using tabs and pull-down menus. They can print tickets and will eventually be able to upload data wirelessly to a case management system after officials build wireless hot spots around courthouses.

The state's system will also allow troopers to swipe a driver's license through a bar code or magnetic stripe reader linked to a computer, which connects to the state law enforcement database. The motorist's driver and vehicle data, including any violations, pops up with the driver's picture, and the system can then fill the e-citation with relevant data.

In collaboration with Alabama's Public Safety Department and Alabama Administrative Office of Courts officials, the University of Alabama's CARE Research and Development Laboratory developed the e-citation software at a cost of about \$750,000. The state's software was developed using Microsoft.Net technology so it would be interoperable with the court's Microsoft-based applications. Although the application is available to the state's 67 jurisdictions for free, officials must buy their own hardware, such as computers and readers.

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