

MAGNET S2

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

DTG: 260728-0250Z | Geographic Focus: MARS Region 7 (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska)
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REPORT IDENTIFICATION

Subject	Flock Safety ALPR Camera Deployment and Regulatory Divergence — MARS Region 7 (IA/KS/MO/NE)
Purpose	Provide intelligence assessment of Flock Safety automated license plate reader (ALPR) camera deployment, state-level regulatory posture, and data-sharing risk across MARS Region 7 for operator situational awareness and personal OPSEC planning.
DTG	260728-0250Z
Reporting Period	January 2026 – 28 July 2026
Geographic Focus	MARS Region 7 (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska)
Precedence	RR – ROUTINE
MagCon Status	3 – ELEVATED (NO CHANGE)
Sources	Multiple source reporting from Local, National, and International platforms. See source list.

SUMMARY (BLUF)

MARS Region 7 is defined by legislative stalemate rather than either the clean statutory divide seen in Region 1 or the audit-driven circumvention pattern seen in Region 5: Iowa's reform bill died at session's end after a contested confidentiality amendment; a comparable Missouri restriction bill remains pending with unclear status; and Kansas's own nonpartisan legislative research office states plainly that no comprehensive state ALPR statute exists, despite one national advocacy source categorizing Kansas among more-regulated states — a discrepancy this report flags rather than resolves. Nebraska is the regional outlier, holding an actual statute (the Automatic License Plate Reader Privacy Act) that extends to all government entities, not just police — yet local reporting alleges federal immigration enforcement has still received assistance via Nebraska ALPR data despite that law. A documented misuse case in Lenexa, Kansas, in which police used ALPR data to investigate a resident over public criticism of the department, illustrates the accountability gap facing Region 7 jurisdictions absent state-level guardrails.

BACKGROUND

Flock Safety's national network has grown to more than 100,000 camera devices and over 5,000 client communities as of mid-2026. MARS Region 7 (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska) is a smaller, largely rural-to-midsized-metro region where legislative reform efforts in three of four states (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri) have stalled, failed, or remain undetermined, while the fourth (Nebraska) has a functioning statute whose real-world enforcement is itself now in question.

A national wave of state audits and investigative reporting through 2025-2026 found Flock's shared-network database structure permits far broader cross-agency and cross-state querying than many individual state laws contemplate, a pattern documented to implicate Region 7 states both as data sources and, per the Illinois Secretary of State's audit, as out-of-state recipients of improperly shared data from other states.

SITUATION

IOWA

Iowa has no comprehensive ALPR statute. Two competing reform efforts moved through the 2026 session: House File 2161 (Rep. David Young), which passed a House subcommittee and would require local ordinances authorizing ALPR use, a 24-hour warrant threshold for data access, and a mandatory records log; and Senate File 2284, which advanced further but drew criticism after a late-session amendment would have made ALPR search logs confidential under Iowa Code 22.7 even as the bill imposed new audit requirements. The Iowa legislative session adjourned May 3, 2026 without SF 2284's ALPR language passing, after House and Senate Republicans could not agree on final terms; the issue is expected to return next session. A joint University of Iowa Technology Law Clinic / ACLU of Iowa report surveyed 48 Iowa communities and documented widespread deployment; ALPRs are now present in at least 39 Iowa communities. Coralville ended its Flock contract citing the vendor's lack of transparency about data-storage practices;

Cedar Rapids pays approximately \$20,000 per month for its system. Separately, Wired reporting cited in Iowa legislative testimony found Flock had shared ALPR data with contract workers in the Philippines for AI model training, which the company did not dispute.

KANSAS

Kansas's own nonpartisan Legislative Research Department (KLRD) states plainly that no current Kansas statute addresses ALPR data or policies specifically; the only relevant provision is a narrow Kansas Open Records Act exemption (KSA 45-221(a)(55)) shielding captured license-plate data and ALPR system locations from public disclosure, which regulates disclosure rather than use, retention, or sharing. This report flags a discrepancy: at least one national ACLU resource guide categorizes Kansas among a smaller tier of states extending LPR regulation to all governmental entities, which appears to conflate the open-records exemption with substantive use regulation; KLRD's official assessment is treated as more authoritative for this report pending further sourcing. The most significant documented Kansas incident this reporting period involves Lenexa, where a KCUR investigation found the Lenexa Police Department used ALPR data to open a criminal investigation into resident Canyon Ashworth after he published a column critical of the department; Ashworth's plate was recorded roughly 150 times in under two years, and no charges were ultimately filed. Lenexa does not use Flock; the city contracts with Axon, Genetec, and Leonardo, indicating the accountability gap identified is a Kansas state-law gap rather than a single-vendor problem.

MISSOURI

Missouri has no comprehensive ALPR statute. House Bill 658, filed in the 2025 session, would prohibit state and local agencies from accessing or using fixed ALPR data, which would effectively bar contracts with vendors including Flock Safety; its current enactment status was not confirmed in available sourcing. Additional restriction proposals were introduced in February 2026. In the Kansas City metro, KCUR/regional-NPR investigative reporting documented a growing anti-Flock activist movement on both sides of the state line; in Weston, Missouri, a pending Flock contract was canceled before completion, with the mayor confirming no payment was made and no further contact from the company. The Illinois Secretary of State's 2025 audit separately found Missouri among the out-of-state agencies that received improperly shared Illinois ALPR data — 14 disclosing Illinois agencies were found to have shared data with 551 out-of-state agencies in total, including in Missouri, Texas, Oklahoma, and Kentucky.

NEBRASKA

Nebraska is the regional outlier: the Automatic License Plate Reader Privacy Act (Neb. Rev. Stat. §60-3201 to 60-3209) is an actual, functioning statute, and per multistate ACLU guidance, Nebraska is among a small group of states (alongside Colorado, Idaho, Kansas per that same source, Utah, DC, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) whose LPR regulation extends to all governmental entities rather than police alone. Despite this, local reporting (Lincoln Journal Star, York News-Times, Flatwater Free Press, cited via the Citizens Against Flock tracker) alleges federal immigration enforcement has received assistance from Nebraska license-plate surveillance notwithstanding the state's statutory framework. DeFlock mapping documents 426 cameras statewide, ranking Nebraska #37 nationally by camera count — a comparatively light regional footprint. Deployment continues actively at the county level: Furnas County commissioners unanimously approved a new Flock Safety resolution on May 12, 2026, with the presenting sheriff providing no contract, cost, or retention-policy detail on the public record. Kearney, North Platte, Hall County, and Buffalo County all operate Flock systems under the state Privacy Act framework, with municipal messaging citing vendor-reported (not independently verified) regional crime-reduction figures in the 40-80% range.

COMMENTS / ASSESSMENT

STATUTE WITHOUT ENFORCEMENT, AND ENFORCEMENT WITHOUT STATUTE

Region 7 presents a sharper version of a pattern first identified in Region 5: Nebraska demonstrates that even a comprehensive, all-entity statute does not guarantee compliance in practice, given credible local reporting of federal immigration-related access despite the law. Conversely, Kansas demonstrates that the complete absence of a use/retention statute does not require a large vendor or dense network to produce a documented abuse case — the Lenexa incident occurred on a non-Flock system, indicating the underlying legal gap, not any single company's practices, is the operative risk factor across Region 7.

KANSAS REGULATORY STATUS: AN UNRESOLVED SOURCING CONFLICT

This report was unable to fully reconcile Kansas's official legislative research position (no substantive ALPR statute exists) against a national advocacy source's classification of Kansas as having broader governmental-entity coverage. Members and downstream consumers of this report should treat Kansas's actual regulatory protection as materially weaker than Nebraska's until this discrepancy is independently resolved; the KLRD source, as Kansas's own nonpartisan research arm, is weighted more heavily in this assessment.

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS RISK: CONFIDENTIALITY RIDERS

Iowa's SF 2284 episode — a bill marketed as reform that would have simultaneously imposed audit requirements and shielded the resulting audit logs from public records law — is a legislative pattern MAGNET should watch for elsewhere in Region 7 and nationally: superficially protective ALPR bills can carry confidentiality riders that reduce, rather than increase, independent verifiability of agency compliance.

CAMERA EFFECTIVENESS VS. COMMUNITY TRUST-BUILDING

As in Regions 1 and 5, independent non-vendor-funded evaluation of ALPR effectiveness continues to show more modest and narrowly scoped results than vendor-produced marketing claims, including the vendor-reported 40-80% regional crime-reduction figures cited by multiple Nebraska municipalities without independent verification identified in current sourcing. The Police Executive Research Forum's Mesa, AZ randomized controlled trial found no measurable auto-theft reduction from hot-spot LPR deployment; the Campbell Collaboration's 80-study CCTV meta-analysis found a modest 16% overall reduction, concentrated in parking-lot settings. Procedural-justice and community-policing research shows smaller direct crime effects but more consistently replicated gains in citizen trust and crime-reporting willingness. This is particularly relevant to Nebraska jurisdictions (Furnas, Buffalo, Hall Counties) currently expanding deployment on the strength of unverified vendor statistics, and to Kansas and Missouri jurisdictions weighing new contracts absent any statutory guardrail.

PROBABILITY ASSESSMENT

ASSESSED OUTCOME (2026–2028 HORIZON)	PROBABILITY	CONFIDENCE
Iowa's ALPR reform language returns and advances in the next legislative session	HIGH	Moderate
Kansas enacts a comprehensive use/retention ALPR statute within 24 months	LOW	Low-Moderate
Missouri HB 658 or a comparable restriction bill is enacted this session	LOW-MODERATE	Low
Additional documented Nebraska instance of federal immigration-related ALPR access surfaces despite the state Privacy Act	MODERATE-HIGH	Moderate
Continued net regional ALPR expansion (Nebraska county-level deployment, Iowa/Missouri municipal contracts) despite stalled reform	HIGH	High

INTELLIGENCE GAPS

- ▶ What is the confirmed current enactment status of Missouri HB 658, and has it advanced beyond the filing stage identified in available 2025-2026 sourcing?
- ▶ Does the Kansas KORA disclosure exemption (KSA 45-221(a)(55)) have any companion use/retention provision not identified in current KLRD sourcing, which would help resolve the Kansas regulatory-status discrepancy flagged in this report?
- ▶ What outcome, if any, resulted from the Lenexa Police Department's investigation into Canyen Ashworth, and has any policy change followed at the department or city level?
- ▶ Will Iowa's SF 2284 ALPR language return in the next session with or without the confidentiality provision that contributed to its failure?
- ▶ What specific evidentiary basis underlies the Nebraska ICE-assistance allegations reported by the Lincoln Journal Star and York News-Times, beyond the summary tracked by Citizens Against Flock?
- ▶ What is Furnas County, Nebraska's actual Flock contract cost and data-retention configuration, given the public resolution record provided no such detail?

MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Members traveling through Region 7 should treat Nebraska's statutory protection as meaningfully stronger on paper than Iowa, Kansas, or Missouri, while accounting for credible reporting that even Nebraska's law has not fully prevented federal immigration-related access.
- Treat Kansas as effectively unregulated for ALPR use/retention purposes pending resolution of the sourcing discrepancy identified in this report; do not rely on secondary advocacy-source classifications alone.
- Track Missouri HB 658's status directly through the Missouri General Assembly's bill-tracking system given the unresolved enactment status identified in current sourcing.
- Watch for a renewed Iowa ALPR reform bill next session and specifically scrutinize any confidentiality or records-exemption language added late in the process.
- Be aware that ALPR misuse for non-criminal, retaliatory, or personal purposes (as documented in Lenexa, KS) is possible even in jurisdictions using non-Flock vendors; the vendor is not the sole risk variable.
- Encourage Region 7 agencies weighing new or expanded ALPR contracts, particularly rural Nebraska counties currently expanding deployment, to independently verify vendor-reported crime-reduction statistics before relying on them in public messaging,

and to pair any camera investment with community trust-building practices shown to more reliably strengthen the citizen-reporting pipeline.

- Reduce overall digital footprint, including migrating primary mobile devices used for MAGNET-related activity to de-googled builds (e.g., GrapheneOS-class operating systems) that do not run default Google Mobile Services, or equivalent de-Apple configurations.
- Do not use cell phones for purchases, including tap-to-pay/mobile wallet transactions, which expose real-time location correlated to any signed-in account regardless of which account is used for the transaction.
- Use offline-capable, login-free navigation applications such as Magic Earth in place of Google Maps or Apple Maps for MAGNET-related travel.
- Where feasible, disable or restrict background location permissions for non-essential applications on devices used for MAGNET activity, and periodically audit 'always allow' location access.

MAGNET GUIDANCE

Members conducting field activity, meetups, or equipment transport within Region 7 should account for Nebraska's comparatively stronger (though imperfectly enforced) statutory posture relative to Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri, none of which currently impose comprehensive use or retention limits on ALPR data.

PACE tier: where movement to Region 7 activities is communications-sensitive, Primary and Alternate coordination should continue to rely on established MAGNET HF/JS8Call/VarAC BBS channels rather than cellular check-ins, consistent with standing MAGNET guidance across all regions.

Report any confirmed instance of a Region 7 agency using plate data for non-investigative or retaliatory purposes (comparable to the Lenexa, KS case), any confirmed Nebraska federal-access instance involving MAGNET-relevant travel, or any resolution of the Kansas regulatory-status discrepancy flagged in this report, through standard S2 intake channels.

SOURCE LIST

- [1] [B2] The Gazette (Cedar Rapids) — Iowa lawmakers advance bill to regulate automatic license plate readers amid privacy concerns; HF 2161 details — https://www.thegazette.com/news/state/iowa-lawmakers-advance-bill-to-regulate-automatic-license-plate-readers-amid-privacy-concerns/article_12a2370f-d4e3-58ad-a576-cbb5bfda5c63.html
- [2] [B2] ACLU of Iowa — Automatic License Plate Reader Report Raises Concerns About Expansion of Government Surveillance in Iowa; 48-community survey — <https://www.aclu-ia.org/press-releases/automatic-license-plate-reader-report-raises-concerns-about-expansion-of-government-surveillance-in-iowa/>
- [3] [B2] WVIK / Quad Cities NPR — Iowa ACLU lobbying for ALPR regulations; Coralville contract cancellation, Cedar Rapids cost figures — <https://www.wvik.org/wvik-top-stories/2026-03-10/iowa-aclu-lobbying-for-automatic-license-plate-readers-regulations-two-bills-await-consideration-in-the-iowa-house>
- [4] [B2] Iowa Public Radio — House lawmakers advance bill regulating Automated License Plate Readers; HF 2161 subcommittee passage, Wired/Philippines data-sharing citation — <https://www.iowapublicradio.org/state-government-news/2026-02-16/house-lawmakers-advance-bill-regulating-automated-license-plate-readers>
- [5] [B2] Iowa Public Radio — Bill regulating police use of license plate readers advances; Rep. Weldon private-vendor critique — <https://www.iowapublicradio.org/state-government-news/2026-04-17/bill-regulating-police-use-of-license-plate-readers-advances>
- [6] [B2] Investigations (Restoring Democracy) — Iowa's ALPR 'Reform' Bill Would Regulate Plate Readers — and Hide the Logs; SF 2284 confidentiality amendment and session-end failure — <https://investigations.restoring-democracy.org/p/iowas-alpr-reform-bill-would-regulate>
- [7] [A1] Kansas Legislative Research Department (KLRD) — Official nonpartisan research memo; confirms no current Kansas statute addresses ALPR data or policies specifically — <https://klrd.gov/publications/automated-license-plate-readers/>
- [8] [A1] Kansas Legislative Research Department (KLRD) — Use and Disclosure of Automated License Plate Recognition System Data; KSA 45-221(a)(55) open-records exemption detail — <https://klrd.gov/2024/02/01/use-and-disclosure-of-automated-license-plate-recognition-system-data/>
- [9] [B1] KCUR (Kansas City NPR) — Missouri and Kansas police use cameras to track license plates, but residents resist surveillance; Lenexa/Ashworth case, Weston MO contract cancellation — <https://www.kcur.org/news/2026-06-29/automated-license-plate-readers-alpr-kansas-city-lenexa-weston-police>
- [10] [C3] Tenth Amendment Center — Missouri Bill Would Limit Government Use of ALPRs; HB 658 filing details (advocacy-affiliated outlet) — <https://blog.tenthamentendmentcenter.com/2025/01/missouri-bill-would-limit-government-use-of-alprs/>
- [11] [B2] First Alert 4 (KMOV) — Missouri lawmakers propose restrictions on automated license plate readers, Feb 2026 — <https://www.firstalert4.com/2026/02/19/missouri-lawmakers-propose-restrictions-automated-license-plate-readers/>
- [12] [B2] Recording Law — Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) Laws Explained (2026); Illinois audit cross-reference documenting Missouri as an out-of-state data recipient — <https://www.recordinglaw.com/us-laws/automated-license-plate-readers/>
- [13] [A1] Nebraska Legislature (nebraskalegislature.gov) — Official statute text; Automatic License Plate Reader Privacy Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §60-3202 et seq. — <https://nebraskalegislature.gov/laws/statutes.php?statute=60-3202>
- [14] [C3] Citizens Against Flock — Nebraska — Crowdsourced/aggregated tracker citing Lincoln Journal Star, York News-Times, and Flatwater Free Press ICE-assistance reporting — <https://citizensagainstofflock.org/states/nebraska.php>

- [15] [B2] Citizen Portal — Furnas County commissioners approve automatic license plate reader resolution, May 12, 2026 — <https://citizenportal.ai/articles/7998970/Nebraska/Furnas-County/Furnas-County-commissioners-approve-automatic-license-plate-reader-resolution>
- [16] [C3] DeFlock The USA — Nebraska — Crowdsourced ALPR camera mapping; Nebraska camera count and national ranking — <https://deflocktheusa.com/flock-cameras/nebraska/>
- [17] [B2] ACLU of Massachusetts — Get The FLOCK Out Community Advocacy Toolkit; multistate LPR regulatory-tier classification (source of the Kansas discrepancy flagged in this report) — <https://www.aclum.org/campaigns-initiatives/get-the-flock-out-resource-guide/>

Submit reports through established MAGNET situational awareness channels. To Learn More About MAGNET, Visit www.MAGNETHF.COM