

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) has announced an important update to the hearing process for violations issued under the Automated Stop Arm Law, 75 Pa. C.S. §3345.1.

Effective **January 26, 2026**, registered owners who receive a Notice of Violation and request a hearing will have the option to request a ***Determination Without Attendance***. Under this new process, the registered owner will not be required to appear for a hearing, and a PennDOT hearing officer will review the evidence and any information submitted by the registered owner and issue a final determination.

This option allows the registered owner to determine how they would like to exercise their due process. *Determinations Without Attendance* will follow the same standards and procedures as in-person or virtual hearings, and registered owners are able to submit evidence in advance of PennDOT's review. PennDOT will continue to issue a formal determination letter by mail.

Registered owners who have previously requested a hearing but are not currently scheduled on a docket will also be provided with the opportunity to request a *Determination Without Attendance*.

The Notice of Violation has been updated to provide the *Determination Without Attendance* option for future hearings. This adjustment aligns with established adjudication practices for other photo enforcement programs in Pennsylvania, and maintains fairness and transparency in the adjudication process.

**For more information about the School Bus Safety Program, visit [www.buspatrol.com/pennsylvania](http://www.buspatrol.com/pennsylvania) or call 1-877-504-7080 Monday through Friday, between 8:00AM and 5:00PM ET.**