

SENATE PRIVACY, DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
Senator Christopher Cabaldon, Chair
2025-2026 Regular Session

SB 1130 (Reyes)
Version: April 6, 2026
Hearing Date: April 20, 2026
Fiscal: Yes
Urgency: No
CK

SUBJECT

Invasion of privacy: wearable recording devices

DIGEST

This bill prohibits the manufacture, sale, purchase, and use of technology to disable indicators on wearable recording devices, as provided.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Last year alone, EssilorLuxottica, the maker of Ray Bans and Oakley glasses, sold over 7 million of their Meta “smart glasses.” The companies intend to raise production to almost 20 million by the end of this year. There are numerous brands currently available, but many are AI-enabled and have the functionality to take pictures and record video. Reports indicate that Meta intends to equip their glasses with facial-recognition technology, potentially as soon as this year.

Such wearable recording devices, while an exciting new technology, present serious privacy risks. Especially given the increasingly sleek design, many bystanders may not realize that another person is wearing such glasses and potentially recording them, whether it be in public or in more sensitive areas. Most of the reputable brands currently include a small indicator that lights up or blinks to indicate that the glasses are recording or capturing an image. However, there is a growing market for tools and technology to disable these indicators, thereby exacerbating the privacy concerns.

This bill responds by prohibiting the manufacture, sale, and purchase of any technology that enables a person to disable any light or other device on wearable recording devices that indicate the device is capturing sound or video. The bill further prohibits the use of any technology to disable such indicators. Those knowingly violating these provisions are subject to civil penalties. The bill also prohibits operating a wearable recording device to capture sound or video of any other person in any area within a place of business where the person has a reasonable expectation of privacy, unless the person

operating the device has the explicit consent of that person to capture sound or video of that person and subjects those in violation to criminal penalties. This bill is supported by Consumer Reports and Oakland Privacy. No timely opposition was received by the Committee. The bill passed out of the Senate Public Safety Committee on a vote of 5 to 1.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LAW

Existing law:

- 1) Provides, pursuant to the California Constitution, that all people have inalienable rights, including the right to pursue and obtain privacy. (Cal. Const., art. I, § 1.)
- 2) Permits a person to bring an action in tort for an invasion of privacy and provides that in order to state a claim for violation of the constitutional right to privacy, a plaintiff must establish the following three elements: (1) a legally-protected privacy interest; (2) a reasonable expectation of privacy in the circumstances; and (3) conduct by the defendant that constitutes a serious invasion of privacy. (*Hill v. National Collegiate Athletic Assn.* (1994) 7 Cal.4th 1, 40.)
- 3) Renders an individual liable for constructive invasion of privacy when that individual attempts to capture, in a manner that is offensive to a reasonable person, any type of visual image, sound recording, or other physical impression of another engaging in a private, personal, or familial activity, through the use of any device, regardless of whether there is a physical trespass, if this image, sound recording, or other physical impression could not have been achieved without a trespass unless the device was used. (Civ. Code § 1708.8.)
- 4) Prohibits a person or entity from compelling a manufacturer or other entity providing the operation of a voice recognition feature to build specific features for the purpose of allowing an investigative or law enforcement officer to monitor communications through that feature. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 22948.20(d).)
- 5) Establishes the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA), which grants consumers certain rights with regard to their personal information, including enhanced notice, access, and disclosure; the right to deletion; the right to restrict the sale of information; and protection from discrimination for exercising these rights. It places attendant obligations on businesses to respect those rights. (Civ. Code § 1798.100 et seq.)

This bill:

- 1) Provides that a person or entity shall not manufacture, sell, deliver, hold, or offer for sale in commerce in this state any technology that enables a person to disable

any light or other device on a wearable recording device that indicates that the device is capturing sound or video.

- 2) Provides that a person in California shall not purchase, trade for, or otherwise acquire the technology described above.
- 3) Prohibits a person in this state from using any technology to permanently or temporarily disable any light or other device on a wearable recording device that indicates that the device is capturing sound or video if the device would otherwise indicate that it is capturing sound or video.
- 4) Subjects a person who knowingly violates the above provisions to a civil penalty not exceeding \$2,500 per violation.
- 5) Prohibits a person from operating a wearable recording device to capture sound or video of any other person in any area within a place of business where the person has a reasonable expectation of privacy unless the person operating the device has the explicit consent of that person to capture sound or video of that person. A person shall not disable any light or other device on a wearable recording device that indicates that the device is capturing sound or video. Violations are subject to criminal penalties.

COMMENTS

1. Addressing privacy concerns with wearable recording devices

Inherently, wearable devices that are able to capture images and video raise concerns about surreptitious recording. The potential privacy concerns are highlighted by a reported case involving an influencer who realized the person providing her waxing services was wearing Meta glasses during the wax.¹ This is why manufacturers like Meta have been incorporating small LED lights or similar signals to alert bystanders that a device is actively recording, a modest but meaningful concession to privacy concerns. However, when someone physically obscures, disables, or modifies that indicator, they are not simply bending a technical rule; they are making a conscious, premeditated choice to deceive the people around them. A simple search online reveals the various products that are being actively offered for sale that allow for this obstruction, from dark stickers to place over the light indicators to hardware modifications that bypass the indicator function.

¹ Luis Prada, *Woman Accuses Tech of Wearing Meta Recording Glasses During Her Brazilian Wax* (September 2, 2025) Vice, <https://www.vice.com/en/article/woman-accuses-tech-of-wearing-meta-recording-glasses-during-her-brazilian-wax/>. All internet citations are current as of April 13, 2026.

Rather than regulating the design of these products, this bill simply seeks to shut down the market for technology to disable the only clear signal to bystanders that a pair of sunglasses or other wearable device is actively spying on them. The bill prohibits manufacturing and selling any technology in this state that enables a person to disable any light or other device on a wearable recording device that indicates that the device is capturing sound or video. On the consumer side, it prohibits the purchase or acquisition of such technology and the use of it to disable these indicators. As more thoroughly discussed in the Senate Public Safety analysis, the bill also imposes criminal penalties for disabling indicators or for operating a wearable recording device to capture sound or video of any other person without their consent in any area within a place of business where the person has a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Some concerns were raised about how the definition of “wearable recording device” could be interpreted. To ensure clarity, the author has agreed to the following amendment:

(2) “Wearable recording device” means any device that ~~can be~~ is designed to be worn on or attached to the body that has the capacity to make sound or video recordings or transmit data received by the device to another device or to the internet.

2. Stakeholder positions

According to the author:

Artificial intelligence and wearable technology are transforming the way we communicate and interact with the world. Devices such as smart glasses and other body-worn recording tools are becoming more common in everyday life. While innovation should be welcomed, it must not come at the expense of Californians’ fundamental right to privacy.

California has long been a national leader in privacy protections. However, many of our existing eavesdropping and recording statutes were written with traditional technologies in mind, telephones, handheld cameras, and tape recorders. Wearable devices present new challenges. They are often designed to look like ordinary eyewear or fashion accessories, making it difficult, if not impossible, for bystanders to know when they are being recorded. In some cases, recording indicator lights can be subtle, disabled, or modified, increasing the risk of covert surveillance.

SB 1130 modernizes California law to address these emerging concerns. The bill defines wearable recording devices and prohibits recording in areas within places of business where individuals have a reasonable

expectation of privacy, unless explicit consent is provided. It also prohibits tampering with or disabling recording indicator lights and restricts the manufacture, sale, purchase, or use of technology intended to conceal recording activity.

This measure does not prohibit innovation, nor does it prevent lawful recording. Instead, it reinforces core principles of transparency, consent, and accountability. As technology evolves, our laws must evolve with it to ensure that privacy protections remain meaningful.

SB 1130 provides clear standards for businesses, consumers, and law enforcement, while protecting Californians' dignity and reasonable expectations of privacy.

Writing in support, Consumer Reports explains the problem:

Today, Californians' fundamental right to privacy is under threat by the growing proliferation of wearable recording technologies. These devices, while undoubtedly technically impressive, can facilitate the frictionless and surreptitious recording of individuals, eroding well-established norms of personal agency and informed consent. ...

Very quickly, these devices have generated a series of frightening incidents. Just last month, it was revealed that Meta was sending raw video collected from glasses to its Kenya-based contractors for the purpose of training and labeling for its AI systems. This practice resulted in video of consumers' bathroom visits, sexual activities, and other intimate moments being watched by human reviewers. A recent BBC investigation surfaced numerous examples of women being secretly recorded by men in public places with the resulting videos going viral and resulting in embarrassment, unwanted attention, and online harassment. And in another recent story, a woman realized mid-appointment that her Brazilian wax technician was wearing Meta glasses — and though the technician assured her the glasses were not recording, the woman had no way of verifying that this was the case....

The bill [outlaws] the practice of disabling indicators on wearable devices, or offering the means to do so. This is directly responsive to the fact that Meta's primary safety control, a small LED that illuminates when users take photos or videos, is easily disabled. For example, recent reports have

identified individuals who offer to modify Meta glasses to disable the LED for as little as \$60.²

SUPPORT

Consumer Reports
Oakland Privacy

OPPOSITION

None received

RELATED LEGISLATION

SB 296 (Dodd, Ch. 864, Stats. 2023) requires the disclosure of in-vehicle cameras installed by the manufacturer and places restrictions on what can be done with video recordings from such cameras and where such recordings can be retained. The bill prohibits compelling an entity to build specific features for the purpose of allowing the monitoring of communications.

AB 1262 (Cunningham, 2022) would have implemented consumer protections in connection with the use of voice recognition features on smart speaker devices and associated transcripts or recordings, including limitations on the sharing and retention of the information, as specified. Consumers would have been required to be properly notified of the features and what activates those features. Companies would have been required to receive affirmative consent before sharing or selling transcriptions or recordings, except as provided. Where a speaker retains voice recordings, the user would have been required to be provided the opportunity to review and delete those recordings. AB 1262 was vetoed by Governor Newsom, who argued it risked unintended consequences and consumer confusion.

PRIOR VOTES:

Senate Public Safety Committee (Ayes 5, Noes 1)

² Supporting citations: Daniele Lepido and Antonio Vanuzzo, *Meta Seeks to Double Ray-Ban Glasses Output After Surge in Demand* (January 13, 2026) Bloomberg, www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2026-01-13/meta-said-to-discuss-doubling-ray-ban-glasses-output-after-surge-in-demand; Joseph Cox and Jason Koebler, *A \$60 Mod to Meta's Ray-Bans Disables Its Privacy-Protecting Recording Light* (October 23, 2025) 404Media, www.404media.co/how-to-disable-meta-rayban-led-light/; Noor Al-Sibai, *Woman Goes to Get Brazilian Wax, Alarmed to Notice Waxer Is Wearing Meta's Video Recording Glasses* (August 31, 2025) Futurism, futurism.com/wax-center-meta-glasses; Georgia Poncia, *'I was secretly filmed with smart glasses and then trolled online'* (January 8, 2026) BBC, www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx23ke7rm7go; Naipano Lepapa, Ahmed Abdigadir, & Julia Lindblom, *She Came Out of the Bathroom Naked, Employee Says* (February 27, 2026), Svenska Dagbladet, www.svd.se/a/K8nrV4/met-as-ai-smart-glasses-and-data-privacy-concerns-workers-say-we-see-everything.
