

California boosts traffic fines to help budget

By Jim Sanders, Sacramento Bee

Justin Jachens learned of California's soaring traffic penalties when he got slapped for a red-light violation.

Ticketed drivers have been squeezed hard during the budget crisis, perhaps because few complain until they get fined – then it's too late.

"We're the ones taking the brunt for everything," said Jachens, 21, a student at California State University, Sacramento. "It's outrageous."

Jachens was nabbed by a red-light camera for not making a complete stop at the intersection of Watt Avenue and Fair Oaks Boulevard. Three years ago, the offense would have cost Jachens \$371.

Now it's \$470.

[Read the whole story](#)