

2025 DIGEST OF TRAFFIC LEGISLATION

CHANGES IN THE CALIFORNIA VEHICLE CODE

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DIGEST OF CHANGES
IN THE
CALIFORNIA VEHICLE CODE
2025

Prepared by:

AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

All changes are effective January 1, 2025, unless otherwise indicated. Official section titles were not available at the time of printing. Titles may change when the Vehicle Code is printed.

NOTE: As used in this Digest, "DMV" means Department of Motor Vehicles and "CHP" means California Highway Patrol.

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INTRODUCTION

In the 2024 legislative session, over 1700 Assembly measures and almost 800 Senate measures were introduced. With approximately 2500 bills starting the journey towards enactment, just over 1000 measures were ultimately signed by the Governor including nearly 67 changes to the Vehicle Code. These changes, along with other related legislation that may be of interest, are presented in this 2025 Digest of Traffic Legislation.

The changes to the Vehicle Code are generally grouped according to their subject matter. Newly enacted laws that may be of particular interest include the actual statutory language, including strikethroughs to indicate deleted provisions and underlines to indicate new provisions. Other laws are simply summarized. Vehicle Code sections with minor changes are represented in the Technical, Non-Substantive section. The Digest may also contain vehicle-related changes to other code sections, such as Health & Safety, Insurance, or Penal.

All changes to the Codes are effective January 1, 2025, unless otherwise indicated. The Digest is mainly intended to advise that there has been a change in the law and invites you to investigate more thoroughly, if necessary. You may do so by ordering a bill by its **chapter number** from the State Capitol Bill Room or you may review the complete history, analysis, and statutory language of a bill online using the **bill number** (SB- Senate Bill or AB-Assembly Bill) at www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov. Both the chapter number and the bill number are provided for your reference.

The legislative representatives from the Automobile Club of Southern California, the California Highway Patrol, and the Department of Motor Vehicles are pleased to present this Digest and hope you will find it a useful tool in drawing attention to the legislative changes which occurred this past year. Additional copies of this booklet may be printed online by visiting **AAA.com/Traffic**.

TECHNICAL NON-SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES

The following sections retained their existing substantive provisions but were amended to make technical, non-substantive changes.

<u>Section</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Bill No.</u>	<u>Chapter No.</u>
1651.3	Amend	AB 2141	47
1804	Amend	SB 156	72
9854	Amend	SB 156	72
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11500	Amend	SB 1518	495
12203	Amend	AB 3281	853
14902	Amend	SB 159	40

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CHAPTER 1

Administration, Registration, and Certificates

Vehicles: Local Registration Fees	
Vehicle License Plates AB 2111, Wallis Chapter 59	Amends Vehicle Code Section 5201.1.

Prohibits a person from altering their license plate or license plates' reflective coating in order to evade electronic capture of the license plate, for any reason.

Vehicles: Local Registration Fees	
Vehicles AB 2536, Hoover Chapter 16	Amends Vehicle Code Section 9250.14.

Defines “vehicle theft crimes” to include the theft of vehicle parts or components and requires any county that imposes this fee to post the currently required year-end fiscal report to the State Controller’s office on the county’s internet website for purposes of the existing Auto Theft Deterrent/Driving Under the Influence Fee that is collected as part of a vehicle’s registration.

License Plates and Registration Cards: Alternative Devices	
Vehicle Registration AB 3138, Wilson Chapter 756	Amends Vehicle Code Section 4854.

Specifies, for purposes of the Alternative Registration Products program established pursuant to AB 984 (Wilson, Chapter 746, Statutes of 2022), that an alternative device that includes vehicle location technology shall be capable of being permanently disabled by means of a nonreversible method that ceases all vehicle location functionality and tracking information capabilities, as specified. Specifies that the vehicle location technology shall be capable of being manually disabled and enabled by a driver of the vehicle who is inside the vehicle. Makes other changes to the oversight of the Alternative Registration Products program.

Department of Motor Vehicles: Confidential Records	
Confidential Records AB 3168, Gipson Chapter 225	Amends Vehicle Code Section 1808.4.

Authorizes an employing agency to request that the Department of Motor Vehicles remove a prior employee from the Protected Records Program following the termination of employment if no appeal to the termination is filed or if the termination or separation is upheld. If the terminated individual files an appeal from termination, this bill requires that the individual's home address be withheld from public inspection while the appeal from termination is ongoing and until the appeal process is exhausted.

CHAPTER 2

Driving Under the Influence/Licensing

License Plates: Obstruction or Alteration	
Transportation Omnibus AB 3278, Committee on Transportation Chapter 226	Amends Vehicle Code Sections 34500, 34501.12, and 34505.5; Amends, Repeals, and Adds Vehicle Code Section 1803; Adds Vehicle Code Sections 15303, 15303.3, and 15303.5; Amends Government Code Sections 14035, 29532.1, and 67930; Amends Penal Code Sections 19.8 and 236.1; Amends Public Utility Code Section 106062;

This measure among other things does the following: Disqualifies a driver from operating a commercial motor vehicle for life if convicted of human trafficking;

Disqualifies a driver from operating a commercial motor vehicle if the Department of Motor Vehicles receives notice from the Federal Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse that the driver is prohibited from operating a commercial motor vehicle;

Prohibits the Department of Motor Vehicles from issuing, renewing or upgrading of a commercial learner's permit or a commercial driver's license if the Department of Motor Vehicles receives notice from the Federal Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse that the driver is prohibited from operating a commercial motor vehicle;

Revises Basic Inspection of Terminal requirements for the California Highway Patrol to remove the requirement for a six-year inspection cycle after a terminal receives a satisfactory compliance rating, removes a requirement for the California Highway Patrol to promulgate regulations for performance-oriented inspection separate from, but with consideration for, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration guidelines. Removes the requirement for the California Highway Patrol to apply the Basic Inspection of Terminal performance-oriented inspection cycle to non-specified vehicles, also known as "j-trucks".

CHAPTER 3

Occupational & Business Regulations

Vehicles: Total Loss Claim: Salvage Certificate or Nonrepairable Vehicle Certificate	
Vehicles AB 1901, Chen Chapter 364	Amends Vehicle Code Section 11540; Adds Vehicle Code Section 11515.3.

Creates a new process by which a salvage pool or occupational licensee of the Department of Motor Vehicles may be issued a salvage certificate or nonrepairable vehicle certificate in the salvage pool or occupational licensee's name for a vehicle taken into possession by the salvage pool or occupational licensee on behalf of an insurance company. This process applies to a vehicle that was subject to a total loss claim, but for which no settlement agreement was reached between the owner and the insurance company. Deems the vehicle abandoned provided the salvage pool or occupational provides notice to the registered and/or legal owner of the vehicle.

Electric Bicycles, Powered Mobility Devices, and Storage Batteries	
Electric Vehicles SB 1271, Min Chapter 791	Amends Vehicle Code Section 312.5; Adds Health and Safety Code Sections 26300, 26301, 26302, 26303, 26304, and 26305.

Prohibits a person from selling, leasing, renting, or offering for sale, lease or rent an electric bicycle (e-bike) unless the battery has been tested by an accredited testing laboratory for compliance with certain standards and modifies the definition of an e- bike. Modifies definitions of e-bike classes. Specifies vehicles that are not e-bikes.

CHAPTER 4

Rules of the Road

Parking Violations	
Vehicles AB 2130, Santiago Chapter 379	Amends Vehicle Code Section 40215.

Expands the required means of communication by which a person requesting an administrative hearing relating to parking violations to include by telephone or electronic means, if offered by the issuing agency.

Vehicles: Electric Bicycles	
Helmets AB 1778, Connolly Chapter 1005	Adds and Repeals Vehicle Code Section 21214.5.

Authorizes the County of Marin, or any city within the County of Marin, to prohibit individuals under the age of 16 from riding a class 2 electric bicycle (e-bike) and to require all individuals to wear a helmet when riding a class 2 e-bike.

Vehicles: Electric Bicycles	
Minor Operators AB 2234, Boerner Chapter 823	Adds and Repeals Vehicle Code Section 21214.7.

Authorizes the County of San Diego, or any city within the county of San Diego, to prohibit individuals under the age of 12 from riding a class 1 or 2 electric bicycle (e-bike) until January 1, 2029.

Vehicles: HOV Lanes	
Authorized Vehicles AB 2678, Wallis Chapter 414	Amends Vehicle Code Sections 5205.5 and 21655.9.

Extends the repeal date of provisions authorizing ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEVs), super ultra-low emission vehicles (SULEVs), advanced technology partial zero-emission vehicle (AT PZEVs), and transitional zero-emission vehicles (TZEVs) with a Clean Air Vehicle (CAV) decal issued by DMV to drive in HOV lanes to January 1, 2027, if permitted by federal law (the Federal authorization currently expires on September 30, 2025).

Vehicles: Sideshows and Takeovers	
Definitions AB 2807, Villapudua Chapter 503	Amends Vehicle Code Section 23109.

Clarifies that a “sideshow” is also known as a “street takeover” for purposes of the Vehicle Code.

Vehicles: Automated Enforcement	
Speed Cameras SB 1297, Allen Chapter 631	Adds and Repeals Article 4 (Sections 22435-22441) of the Vehicle Code.

Authorizes the City of Malibu to establish a speed safety pilot program that is nearly identical to existing speed safety pilot programs previously authorized by statute. Provides this authorization until January 1, 2032.

Vehicles: Parking	
Payment Zones SB 532, Weiner Chapter 858	Amends Vehicle Code Section 22508; Adds & Repeals Vehicle Code Section 22508.2

Authorizes a local authority in the City and County of San Francisco, the City of Long Beach, or the City of Santa Monica to require payment by a mobile device in a parking payment zone.

Conditions authorization on the following:

- Installation of signs no more than 100 feet away from the parking zone clearly stating that payment is required and how payments may be made;
- Adoption by ordinance or resolution of an accessible and equitable parking cash payment plan that provides a reasonably accessible alternative means for paying parking fees using cash. The plan must assess the feasibility of potential strategies and shall be developed in consultation with relevant local stakeholder organizations;
- Submission to the authority's governing body and the transportation committees of the Legislature, by January 1 of the fourth year in which the first mobile device parking payment zone has been implemented, an evaluation report of the zones' impact on equity, accessibility, privacy, and costs.
- Places limitations on fines as specified;
- Limits the operation of a mobile device parking payment zone authorized by this bill to five years following the creation of the first such zone, or until January 1, 2033, whichever is sooner.
- Adoption by ordinance or resolution of an accessible and equitable parking cash payment plan that provides a reasonably accessible alternative means for Paying parking fees using cash. The plan must assess the feasibility of potential strategies and shall be developed in consultation with relevant local stakeholder organizations;
- Submission to the authority's governing body and the transportation committees of the Legislature, by January 1 of the fourth year in which the first mobile device parking payment zone has been implemented, an evaluation report of the zones' impact on equity, accessibility, privacy, and costs.
- Places limitations on fines as specified.
- Limits the operation of a mobile device parking payment zone authorized by this bill to five years following the creation of the first such zone, or until January 1, 2033, whichever is sooner.

CHAPTER 5

Fees, Fines & Penalties

Vehicles: Impoundment	
Impound AB 3085, Gipson Chapter 504	Amends Vehicle Code Section 14602.7.

Expands the list of offenses for which a peace officer may impound a vehicle for up to 30 days pursuant to a warrant or order issued by a magistrate to include:

- a) Engaging in a motor vehicle speed contest on a highway or in an off-street parking facility. (VEH §23109 (a))
- b) Engaging in a motor vehicle exhibition of speed on a highway or in an off-street parking facility and aiding or abetting in a motor vehicle exhibition of speed on any highway or in an off-street parking facility. (VEH §23109 (c))

Vehicles: Speed Contests	
Impound AB 1978, Sanchez Chapter 501	Amends Vehicle Code Section 22651; Adds Vehicle Code Section 23109.3.

Provides that a peace officer, who arrests a person, who, for the purpose of facilitating or aiding speed contests and exhibitions of speed, obstructs or places a barricade or assists or participates in placing a barrier or obstruction, is authorized to impound the vehicle used to commit the violation without taking the person into custody.

Vehicles: Exhibition of Speed	
Impoundment AB 2186, Wallis Chapter 502	Amends Vehicle Code Section 23109.2.

Authorizes a peace officer to remove and seize a motor vehicle used in an exhibition of speed in an off-street parking facility for no more than 30 days and provides that a peace officer may not remove and seize a vehicle of a person who aided and abetted a person engaged in an exhibition of speed.

Vehicles: Autonomous Vehicles	
Traffic Violations AB 1777, Ting Chapter 682	Amends Vehicle Code Section 38750; Adds Vehicle Code Sections 38751- 38753.

Places various requirements on manufactures of autonomous vehicles by July 1, 2026, and authorizes a peace officer to issue a "notice of autonomous vehicle noncompliance" to an AV manufacturer for a violation of the vehicle code or a local traffic ordinance.

CHAPTER 6

Vehicles & Equipment

Vehicles: Electric Bicycles	
Electric Bicycle Modifications AB 1774, Diane Dixon Chapter 55	Amends Vehicle Code Section 24016.

Prohibits modifying an electric bicycle's speed capability to an extent it no longer meets the definition of an electric bicycle. Also, prohibits selling a product or device that can modify the speed capability of an electric bicycle to an extent it no longer meets the definition of an electric bicycle in the Vehicle Code.

Transit Buses: Yield Right-Of-Way Sign	
Transit Buses: Signage Requirements AB 1904, Christopher Ward Chapter 555	Amends Vehicle Code Section 24617.

Permits a transit agency to equip a bus with a yield right-of-way sign to the left rear of the bus. Permits the sign to be a flashing light-emitting diode (LED) sign or a static decal. Requires the LED sign to warn traffic, approaching from the rear of the bus, that the bus is entering traffic. Also requires the LED sign to flash red when the bus is signaling to enter traffic after stopping to receive or discharge passengers.

Vehicles: Weight Limits	
Specified Vehicle Weight Limits AB 1953, Carlos Villapudua Chapter 219	Amends Vehicle Code Section 35551; Adds Vehicle Code Section 35559.

Permits the power unit of a near-zero emission or zero-emission vehicle to exceed the allowable gross weight limit by a maximum of 2,000 pounds. Prohibits the maximum gross vehicle weight for a near zero-emission vehicle or a zero-emission vehicle to exceed 82,000 pounds.

Vehicle Equipment: Driver Monitoring Defeat Devices	
Vehicle Equipment Driver Assistance SB 1313, Angelique Ashby Chapter 604	Adds Vehicle Code Sections 28155.

Prohibits equipping a vehicle with a device designed for neutralizing, disabling, or interfering with a driver monitoring system when drivers are utilizing advanced driver assistance system features or autonomous technology. Also prohibits using, purchasing, manufacturing, selling, advertising for sale, or distributing, a device designed to neutralize, disable, or interfere with a driver monitoring system when drivers are utilizing advanced driver assistance system features or autonomous technology.

Vehicles: Connected Vehicle Service	
Accessibility SB 1394, Dave Min Chapter 655	Adds Vehicle Code Sections 28200, 28202, 28204, 28206, 28210, 28220, 28222, 28224, 28226, 28228, 28240, 28242, and 28244.

Requires vehicle manufacturers, beginning July 1, 2025, to publish a clearly visible link on their website to create a connected vehicle service account and submit connected vehicle service requests regarding location access, data collection, and remote commands.

Requires vehicle manufacturers, beginning July 1, 2026, to provide a mechanism to a driver to immediately disable connected vehicle access if the vehicle has connected location access.

Requires vehicles manufactured on or after January 1, 2028, to include a mechanism for the driver to immediately disable connected vehicle location access. Requires vehicles, beginning January 1, 2028, to clearly indicate when an external party has accessed connected vehicle services or location data.

Vehicles: Off Highway Recreation	
Red Rock Canyon Park SB 632, Caballero Chapter 592	Amends Vehicle Code Sections 38026 and 38026.5; Adds and Repeals Vehicle Code Section 38026.3.

Authorizes State Parks to establish a pilot project to designate combined-use highways up to 10 miles on roads in Red Rock Canyon State Park in order to link existing OHV trails, trailheads, and recreational-use areas on federal BLM or USFS lands.

Provides this authorization through January 1, 2030.

Vehicles: Off Highway Motorcycles	
Sanctioned Events SB 708, Jones Chapter 446	Adds Vehicle Code Sections 38087.7 and 38231.7.

Beginning January 1, 2026, a “sanctioned event permit” that allows a California resident, upon payment of a fee, to operate certain off-road motorcycles at sanctioned events. The permit will be valid for the calendar year issued for OHV recreational special events approved by any agency, as specified.

Projects: Class III Bikeways	
Prohibitions SB 1216, Blakespear Chapter 788	Amends Streets and Highways Sections 2382 and 2384; Adds Streets and Highways Section 891.9.

Defines, for the purpose of this legislation, “sharrow” as a shared lane bicycle marking as described in the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Devices.

Prohibits any agency responsible for the development or operation of bikeways or highways where bicycle travel is prohibited from installing a new sharrow on a highway that has a posted speed limit greater than 30 miles per hour (mph), except at or near an intersection for the purpose of connecting a Class I, II, or IV bikeway through the intersection.

Prohibits, beginning January 1, 2026, the ATP from adding projects that create a class III bikeway or sharrow unless:

- a) It is on a highway with a design speed limit of 25 mph or less;
- b) The project will implement improvements to reduce the design speed limit to 25 mph or less; or
- c) The project applicant demonstrates that the use of the Class III bikeway or marking is appropriate for the local community context and advances a lower stress environment or network.

Requires the CTC to update their project eligibility guidelines to exclude the development of Class III bikeways or sharrows and not consider class III bikeways or sharrows as contributing to improving the connectivity of nonmotorized users unless they meet the above criteria.

Vehicles: Hydrogen Fueling Stations	
Expedited Review SB 1418, Archuleta Chapter 607	Amend Government Code Section 65850.7.

Requires cities and counties to adopt an ordinance that creates an expedited, streamlined permitting process for hydrogen-fueling stations.

Vehicles: Battery Electric Vehicles	
Bidirectional Capability SB 59, Skinner Chapter 765	Adds Health and Safety Code Sections 44269, 44268.1 and 44269.2.

Authorizes the California Energy Commission (CEC) to require any class of battery electric vehicle (EV) to be capable of bidirectional charging. This bill establishes various definitions regarding bidirectional charging and authorizes the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to modify those definitions as needed.

Transportation Planning: Complete Streets	
Transit Facilities SB 960, Weiner Chapter 630	Amend Government Code Sections 14526.4 and 1526.6; Adds Government Code Section 14526.8; Amends Streets and Highways Section 164.6 and 671.5; Adds Streets and Highways Section 149.20.

Requires Caltrans to include complete streets assets in its asset management plan, system highway management plan, and in the plain language performance report for the state highway operation and protection program (SHOPP).

Requires Caltrans to develop and adopt transit priority policy and guidelines and to commit to specific 4-year targets to incorporate complete streets facilities in the SHOPP.

Vehicles: EV Charging Stations	
Curbside Charging AB 2427, McCarty Chapter 567	Amends Government Code Section 12100.151; Adds Government Code Section 65850.72.

Requires local agencies to undertake specified actions regarding the permitting of electric vehicle charging stations in the public right-of-way and adds specified information to the Electric Vehicle Charging Station Permitting Guidebook developed by the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development.

Transportation Planning: CA Transportation Plan	
Dashboard AB 2086, Schiavo Chapter 629	Amend Government Code Section 65072; Adds Government Code Section 65075.

Requires the California Transportation Plan (CTP) to include a financial element that summarizes the full cost of implementing the plan over the first ten years of the planning period. Also requires Caltrans to report on how annual project investments are advancing the vision and goals of the CTP.

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