

Date of Hearing: May 11, 2022

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Chris Holden, Chair
AB 2956 (Committee on Transportation) – As Amended April 18, 2022

Policy Committee: Transportation

Vote: 15 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill is the Assembly Committee on Transportation bill to make noncontroversial changes to provisions of law related to transportation.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Updates federal program references for the Active Transportation Program.
- 2) Updates the reference of required motorcycle range and street instruction to be under the guidance of the California Motorcyclist Safety Program.
- 3) Makes numerous changes for federal conformity regarding the operation of commercial vehicles and enforcement by the California Highway Patrol.
- 4) Clarifies process for when a license issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles is automatically cancelled if the licensee's seller's permit is suspended, revoked, or canceled by the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA).
- 5) Updates a subsection reference for valid permitting to operate a motor vehicle.
- 6) Deletes obsolete references to "household goods carriers" and the Public Utilities Commission and replaces them with "household movers," and Department of Consumer Affairs and updates appropriate cross references.
- 7) Updates the testing standard of vehicular exhaust systems in accordance with the most current Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) International standard.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Minor costs.

COMMENTS:

Background and Purpose. This bill is the the Assembly Committee on Transportation's omnibus bill, which makes a number of minor, non-controversial changes to statute. There is no known opposition to any of the items in the bill. If issues arise that cannot be resolved, the Transportation Committee commits to delete any provision of concern.

This bill includes the following provisions, with the proponent of each provision noted in brackets:

- 1) Federal program references for the Active Transportation Program are out of date. The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Recreational Trails Program have been eliminated as individual programs and consolidated into the Surface Transportation Block Program under Section 133(h) of Title 23 of the U.S. Code. The entire TAP program (referred to in code as the “STP set-aside”) is under Section 133(h) and the recreational trails portion of the program is under Section 133(h)(5). This section updates the state highway code to reference Section 133(h) of Title 23 of the U.S. Code. [Metropolitan Transportation Commission]
- 2) The California Motorcyclists Safety Program, administrated by the California Highway Patrol (CHP), is the only official range and street teaching motorcycle driving instruction certified by the State. This section updates the required motorcycle range and street instruction and to be under the guidance of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation California Motorcyclists Safety Program. [ABATE of California, Motorcyclists Rights & Safety Organization]
- 3) Numerous sections of the California Vehicle Code (CVC) contain outdated references to federal code. To maintain consistency with federal mandates, this section:
 - a) Amends Section 2400 of the CVC, which applies to size and weight certification.
 - b) Amends Section 2800 of the CVC, which relates to vehicle inspection requirements.
 - c) Amends Section 2813 of the CVC, which applies to vehicle inspection requirements (adding driver’s license (DL) and hours-of-service compliance).
 - d) Amends Section 12505(g) of the CVC, which is applicable to foreign commercial driver licenses.
 - e) Amends Section 26710 of the CVC, which applies to windshield requirements.
 - f) Amends Section 27903(c) of the CVC, which applies to explosives transportation permits and regulatory exemptions.
 - g) Amends Section 34501(b) of the CVC, related to explosives transportation permits and regulatory exemptions.
 - h) Amends state statute applicable to vehicle equipment condition by adding new Section 34501.19 of the CVC.
 - i) Amends Section 34505.6 of the CVC, which applies to household goods carriers; and,
 - j) Amends Section 16028(b) of the CVC to mandate that a peace officer request and verify evidence of financial responsibility from the driver of a vehicle, and remove the nonessential mandate that a peace officer write the vehicle insurance policy number on a notice to appear. [California Highway Patrol]

- 4) Current statute requires the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to cancel a dealer license when a dealer voluntarily surrenders their seller's permit to CDFTA for cancellation. This section closes a loophole that enables dealers to continue to sell vehicles as licensed dealers without remitting sales and use tax to CDFTA. [California Department of Tax and Fee Administration]
- 5) AB 1343 (Chapter 768, Statutes of 2003), inadvertently exempts adults with an instruction permit from the requirement to drive under the supervision of an accompanying licensed driver. This section amends subdivision (d) to include paragraph (5) of subdivision (a). This will restore adult drivers to subdivision (d). The language is in print as AB 1898 (Fong) of 2022. [Republican Caucus]
- 6) CVC Sections 2810.1, 16020, 16560, 34505.6, 34507.5, 34601, 34603, 34622, 34264 contain outdated cross-references for the exemption related to household movers and the permit required, and outdated reference to "goods carrier" rather than "mover." This section reflects the proper cross-reference, and updates the term "mover" rather than "goods carrier." [California Moving and Storage Association]
- 7) California measures a motor vehicle's exhaust using a Society of Automotive Engineers' (SAE) methodology. SAE periodically updates the standard to reflect the latest best practices and to account for changing vehicle technology. As a result, the CVC must be updated to reflect these changes. This section updates the California Vehicle Code to allow the Bureau of Automotive Repair to use the latest SAE testing standard when measuring a motor vehicle's exhaust noise. [Specialty Equipment Market Association]

Analysis Prepared by: Jay Dickenson / APPR. / (916) 319-2081