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CONSENT

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Bill No: AB 1272  
Author: Dixon (R)  
Amended: 3/24/25 in Assembly  
Vote: 21

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SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: 14-0, 6/24/25  
AYES: Cortese, Strickland, Archuleta, Arreguín, Blakespear, Cervantes, Dahle,  
Gonzalez, Grayson, Limón, Menjivar, Richardson, Seyarto, Umberg  
NO VOTE RECORDED: Valladares

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 76-0, 5/27/25 (Consent) - See last page for vote

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**SUBJECT:** Department of Motor Vehicles: occupational licensees

**SOURCE:** Author

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**DIGEST:** This bill makes it unlawful for a business that holds an occupational license issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to use “Department of Motor Vehicles” or “DMV” in its internet domain name.

**ANALYSIS:**

Existing law:

- 1) Restricts an occupational licensee from using the initials “DMV,” the DMV logogram, or the words “Department of Motor Vehicles” in any business name, telephone number, or in any advertisement in a way that indicates, or could be construed to indicate, official connection with DMV other than a licensee.
- 2) Defines an “internet domain name” to mean any alphanumeric designation that is registered with or assigned by any domain name registrar, domain name registry, or other domain name registration authority as part of an electronic address on the internet. (Business and Professions Code 17527)

This bill prohibits a business in possession of an occupational license issued by DMV to use either “DMV” or “Department of Motor Vehicles” in its internet domain name, as specified.

## Comments

- 1) *Purpose of this bill.* According to the author, “AB 1272 would prohibit the holder of an occupational license by the Department of Motor Vehicles from using the acronym “DMV,” the Department of Motor Vehicles logogram, or the words “Department of Motor Vehicles” in their website domain name. Currently, occupational license holders are already barred from utilizing this information in their business name or telephone number. This common sense change to existing law will ensure that consumers are protected against third party service providers deliberately trying to obfuscate or misrepresent their services as the DMV. With online fraud rampant and many individuals already struggling to pay their bills, this measure would provide an extra layer of protection to ensure consumers are not misled when seeking to work with the DMV.”
- 2) *What is a DMV Occupational License?* According to DMV’s website, California has over 31 million registered vehicles and more than 24 million licensed drivers. Due to the significant number of both vehicles and drivers in the State, the market for a variety of services for the selling and operation of vehicles is vast. DMV’s occupational licensing program oversees the licensing, monitoring, and regulating of the businesses that provide these services which include, but are not limited to: traffic schools and safety trainings, vehicle dealers, vehicle dismantlers, vehicle transporters, driver testing programs, and interlock ignition device providers. In order for a business to provide these services, the company must complete / submit an occupational license application to DMV and be approved for the license. One of the most common types of services motorists use are known as registration service providers. These businesses provide a number of services such as processing vehicle registration, title transfers, and carrying out lien sales. These functions can be carried out at a DMV field office or potentially at a DMV kiosk, however motorists may use registration service providers for the possibility of faster service or a more convenient location.

Existing law currently prohibits a business with a DMV-issued occupational license from using “DMV” or “Department of Motor Vehicles” in any business name, advertisement, or telephone number in a manner where it can be construed that the business is part of the state DMV. However, existing law is

silent on any similar prohibitions in regards to internet domain names / addresses.

- 3) *Online DMV services.* In recent years, the DMV has diligently worked to encourage motorists / customers to use online services to avoid in-office visits, especially considering the increased number of people who will be required to visit a DMV field office to receive a REAL ID. One of those steps was to create a page on its website called “DMV Anytime.” This webpage provides customers with the ability to easily find online service providers or walk-in service providers that can provide registration renewal stickers, duplicate stickers, and title transfers. These business partners are authorized to provide an additional fee for the service that they offer. Over the years, these business partners helped reduce the number of DMV transactions conducted in field offices and conducted over \$2 billion transactions for DMV last year alone.

The provision specified in this bill recognizes that DMV business partners should not be able to mislead consumers or have an unfair competitive advantage by using “DMV” or “Department of Motor Vehicles” in their domain name to give businesses in possession of a DMV-issued occupational license the appearance that they are endorsed by or affiliated with DMV. Lastly, this bill does not affect internet domain names for entities that do not have occupational licenses with DMV.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

**SUPPORT:** (Verified 7/7/25)

None received

**OPPOSITION:** (Verified 7/7/25)

None received

**ASSEMBLY FLOOR:** 76-0, 5/27/25

**AYES:** Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo,

Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis,  
Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas  
NO VOTE RECORDED: Bennett, Jeff Gonzalez, Nguyen

Prepared by: Manny Leon / TRANS. / (916) 651-4121  
7/9/25 16:03:35

\*\*\*\* **END** \*\*\*\*