

Date of Hearing: April 21, 2026

Counsel: Ilan Zur

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Nick Schultz, Chair

AB 1650 (Caloza) – As Amended April 16, 2026

As Proposed to be Amended in Committee

SUMMARY: Requires a privately owned vehicle rented by any federal, state, or local law enforcement agency for the use of detaining, arresting, or transporting persons suspected of violating the law to have a temporary decal displaying the agency name and logo.

Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires any privately owned vehicle rented by, or furnished to, any federal, state, or local law enforcement agency for the use of detaining, arresting, or transporting persons who have violated, or are suspected of having violated, any law, to have a temporary decal displaying the agency name and logo.
- 2) Requires the indicia or name of the governmental entity operating the vehicle to be displayed in sharp contrast to the background on the front door panels and shall be of such size, shape, and color as to be readily legible during daylight hours from a distance of 50 feet, and requires the governmental entity to create and affix the temporary decal to the vehicle.
- 3) Specifies that this requirement to have a temporary decal displaying the agency name and logo does not apply to privately owned vehicles rented or otherwise furnished or loaned to any federal, state, or local law enforcement agency for any of the following purposes:
 - a) An officer engaged in plainclothes operations who is employed by the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency, the Office of Law Enforcement Support, the California Health and Human Services Agency, the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the Natural Resources Agency, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the Transportation Agency, the California Environmental Protection Agency, the Government Operations Agency, or by any department, board, commission, or other entity within those agencies or the federal equivalent of these state agencies.
 - b) Exigent circumstances involving an imminent danger to persons or property, the escape of a perpetrator, or the destruction of evidence, including if the officer is responding to one of these circumstances while off duty.
 - c) Privately owned vehicles rented to, or otherwise furnished or loaned to, a Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) or tactical team unit that is actively performing their tactical team responsibilities.
 - d) Privately owned vehicles rented to, or otherwise furnished or loaned to, an officer engaged in protective operations involving elected officials, judicial officers, or other

designated dignitaries if the display of identification would compromise the safety, anonymity, or tactical effectiveness of the protection detail.

- e) An officer engaged in active undercover operations or investigative activities.
- 4) Specifies that any failure to display a decal in accordance with this bill shall subject the entity renting the vehicle from the private owner to liability that shall be enforced by a civil action, brought in the name of the people of California by the Attorney General (AG), a district attorney, county counsel, or a city attorney, who may seek injunctive or declaratory relief, and entitles a prevailing plaintiff in an action to all reasonable attorney's fees and costs.
- 5) Requires the terms and conditions of the rental car contract to specify that compliance with the temporary decal requirement is mandatory, and provides that the contract may include a term requiring the law enforcement agency to indemnify the owner of the private vehicle.
- 6) Specifies that the requirement to have a temporary decal displaying the agency name and logo does not apply to any rental car contract entered into prior to January 1, 2027.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Requires uniformed peace officers to wear a badge, nameplate, or other device that bears clearly on its face the identification number or name of the officer. (Pen. Code, § 830.10.)
- 2) Requires a non-uniformed peace officer or federal law enforcement officer operating in California, as specified, to visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number or both name and badge number when performing their enforcement duties, subject to specified exemptions, including for an officer engaged in active undercover operations or investigative activities. (Pen. Code, § 13654, subd. (a).)
- 3) Requires a law enforcement agency operating in California, including any federal law enforcement agency, to maintain and publicly post a written policy on the visible identification of sworn personnel that must include specified exemptions, such as for officers engaged in active undercover operations or investigative activities. (Gov. Code, § 7288, subd. (a).)
- 4) Makes it a misdemeanor to operate a motor vehicle and willfully flee or elude a pursuing peace officer's motor vehicle only if the peace officer's vehicle exhibits at least one lighted red lamp, is sounding a siren as may be reasonably necessary, is distinctively marked, and the peace officer is wearing a distinctive uniform. (Veh. Code, § 2800.1, subd. (a).)
- 5) Defines an authorized emergency vehicle to include, among other things, any publicly owned vehicle operated by any federal, state, or local agency, department, or district employing peace officers as defined, for use by those officers in the performance of their duties, as well as any vehicle owned or operated by any department or agency of the United States government when the vehicle is used in responding to emergency fire, ambulance, or lifesaving calls or is actively engaged in law enforcement work. (Veh. Code, § 165, subds. (b)(1) & (f).)

- 6) Provides, as a matter of legislative policy, that red lights and sirens on vehicles should be restricted to authorized emergency vehicles engaged in police, fire, and lifesaving services; and that other types of vehicles which are engaged in activities which create special hazards upon the highways should be equipped with flashing amber warning lamps. (Vehicle Code Section 30.)
- 7) Requires that every authorized emergency vehicle be equipped with at least one steady burning red warning lamp visible from at least 1,000 feet to the front of the vehicle, as specified, and provides that emergency vehicles may display revolving, flashing, or steady red warning lights to the front, sides, or rear of the vehicles. (Veh. Code, § 25252.)
- 8) Authorizes an authorized emergency vehicle to be equipped with a system that flashes the upper-beam headlamps of the vehicle, with the flashes occurring alternately from the front headlamp on one side of the vehicle to the front headlamp on the other side of the vehicle, as specified. (Veh. Code, § 25252.5, subd. (a).)
- 9) Authorizes an authorized emergency vehicle, where the vehicle is being driven in response to an emergency call, as specified, and the driver sounds a siren and displays a lighted red lamp, to display a flashing white light from a gaseous discharge lamp designed and used for the purpose of controlling official traffic control signals. (Veh. Code, § 25258, subd. (a).)
- 10) Authorizes an authorized emergency vehicle used by a specified peace officer or probation officer, in the performance of the peace officer's duties, to additionally display a steady or flashing blue warning light visible from the front, sides, or rear of the vehicle. (Veh. Code, § 25258, subd. (b)(1).)
- 11) Authorizes an authorized emergency vehicle to display flashing amber warning lights to the front, sides, or rear, and authorizes a vehicle operated by a police or traffic officer while in the actual performance of their duties to display steady burning or flashing white lights to either side mounted above the roofline of the vehicle. (Veh. Code, § 25259, subds. (a)-(b).)
- 12) States that the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle is exempt from a variety of specified Vehicle Code requirements, including specified traffic laws, under all of the following conditions:
 - a) If the vehicle is being driven in response to an emergency call or while engaged in rescue operations or is being used in the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law or is responding to, but not returning from, a fire alarm, except that fire department vehicles are exempt whether directly responding to an emergency call or operated from one place to another as rendered desirable or necessary by reason of an emergency call and operated to the scene of the emergency or operated from one fire station to another or to some other location by reason of the emergency call.
 - b) If the driver of the vehicle sounds a siren as may be reasonably necessary and the vehicle displays a lighted red lamp visible from the front as a warning to other drivers and pedestrians. (Veh. Code, § 21055.)

- c) Provides that this exemption does not relieve the driver of a vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the highway, as specified. (Veh. Code, § 21056.)
- 13) Exempts an authorized emergency vehicle from any requirement to pay a toll, as specified, if the vehicle is properly displaying an exempt California license plate and is properly identified or marked as an authorized emergency vehicle, as specified, is being driven while responding to or returning from an emergency call, and the driver determines the use of the toll facility improves the availability or response and arrival time of the vehicle. (Veh. Code, § 23301.5, subd. (a).)
- 14) Provides that a public employee is not liable for civil damages on account of personal injury to or death of any person or damage to property resulting from the operation, in the line of duty, of an authorized emergency vehicle while responding to an emergency call or when in the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, or when responding to but not upon returning from a fire alarm or other emergency call. (Veh. Code, § 17004.)
- 15) Authorizes the DMV to issue license plates for vehicles exempt from registration fees in the same series as plates issued for nonexempt vehicles, where the plates may be issued for a one-year period and only upon the certification of the DMV that the issuance of the plates has been requested by the head of a criminal justice or a law enforcement agency of a city, county, or state or federal department, that the vehicle is assigned to persons responsible for investigating actual or suspected violations of the law or for supervisor, as specified, and is intended for use in the line of duty. (Veh. Code, § 5001.)
- 16) Requires the DMV to maintain a record of the registration of exempt vehicles with regular series plates, which record shall not be open to public inspection, except as specified. (Veh. Code, § 5003.)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Author's Statement:** According to the author, “Since the summer of 2025, enforcement activities by ICE have intensified across our state. From Sacramento and San Francisco to Los Angeles and San Diego, we have seen growing concern on the use of unmarked rental vehicles in enforcement operations that have involved arrest, detention, and transport of members of our community.

“When vehicles used by government agencies lack proper identification, it becomes difficult for the public to distinguish between legitimate law enforcement and bad actors. These practices create not just confusion, but fear—fear for the public and fear for those who are being illegally faced with governmental force and violence.

“AB 1650 delivers a necessary and urgent step to safeguard our communities. It is not about restriction—it’s about restoring trust, enforcing accountability, and ensuring that every act of law enforcement is grounded in the protection of basic human rights. No one should have to fear that a vehicle simply approaching them could put their safety at risk and cause them harm. This uncertainty has no place in California nor our government, entrusted to leaders

who have sworn to protect and serve the people.”

- 2) **Background: Increased Federal Immigration Enforcement Efforts:** President Trump has vowed to carry out the largest deportation program in U.S. history during his second term. The White House previously set a goal of 1 million annual deportations.¹ On January 20, 2025, the President issued an order titled “Protecting the American People Against Invasion.” The order states that “[i]t is the policy of the United States to faithfully execute the immigration laws against all inadmissible and removable aliens, particularly those aliens who threaten the safety or security of the American people. Further, it is the policy of the United States to achieve the total and efficient enforcement of those laws, including through lawful incentives and detention capabilities.”² Notable provisions of this order include: 1) directing the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to set enforcement priorities, emphasizing criminal histories; 2) establishing Homeland Security Task Forces in each state; 3) requiring all noncitizens to register with DHS, with civil and criminal penalties for failure to register; 4) directing DHS to collect all civil fines and penalties from undocumented individuals, such as for unlawful entry or attempted unlawful entry; 5) expanding the use of expedited removal; 6) building more detention facilities; 7) encouraging federal/state cooperation, as specified; 8) encouraging voluntary departure, as specified; 9) limiting access to humanitarian parole and Temporary Protected Status; 10) directing the U.S. Attorney General and DHS to ensure that “sanctuary” jurisdictions do not receive access to federal funds; 11) reviewing federal grants to non-profits assisting undocumented persons and denying public benefits to undocumented persons; and 12) hiring more U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) officers.³

Immigration arrests have significantly increased since President Trump’s second term began.⁴ ICE removals in California were substantially similar to the numbers from the previous year in the first few months of Trump’s second term; however, beginning in the summer, removals significantly ramped up.⁵ Data indicates that ICE deported at least 8,250 people from California in the first nine months of 2025.⁶ From June 6 to June 22, 2025, federal immigration enforcement teams arrested 1,618 immigrants for deportation in Los Angeles and the surrounding Southern California regions.⁷ In response to the protests, President Trump deployed National Guard troops and Marines to L.A. over the objections of state officials.⁸ In September and October of 2025, federal immigration officers arrested more than twice as many people in the region of San Diego as they did in the entirety of

¹ Politico, *Trump got \$170 billion for immigration. Now he has to enact it* (July 5, 2025), available at: <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/07/05/trump-got-170-billion-for-immigration-now-he-has-to-enact-it-00439785>

² The White House, *Protecting the American People Against Invasion* (Jan. 20, 2025), available at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/protecting-the-american-people-against-invasion/>

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ Albert Sun, *Immigration Arrests Are Up Sharply in Every State. Here Are the Numbers*, New York Times (June 27, 2025), available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/06/27/us/ice-arrests-trump.html>

⁵ Mathew Miranda, *ICE deportations in California surged in the thousands as 2025 went on*, Sacramento Bee (Jan. 12, 2026), available at: <https://www.sacbee.com/news/california/article314213552.html>

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ Andrea Castillo, *More than 1600 immigrants detained in Southern California this month, DHS says*, Los Angeles Times (June 25, 2025), available at: <https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2025-06-25/more-than-1-600-immigrants-detained-in-southern-california-this-month-dhs-says>

⁸ Bill Hutchinson, *LA protests timeline: How ICE raids sparked demonstrations and Trump to send in the military*, ABC News (June 11, 2025), available at: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/timeline-ice-raids-sparked-la-protests-prompted-trump/story?id=122688437>.

2024.⁹ Such aggressive immigration enforcement efforts have resulted in an uptick in immigration-enforcement-related deaths, including the January 24, 2026, shooting of Alex Pretti by U.S. CBP officers.¹⁰ Recent reporting found that it is the deadliest year for those in immigration detention in over two decades.¹¹ Since October 23rd, 2025, more people have died in ICE custody than in the entire prior fiscal year.¹² The rapid increase in immigration arrests has contributed to overcrowding, unsanitary conditions, and issues related to healthcare and food access in detention centers.¹³

The increase in federal immigration enforcement under the Trump Administration has also been associated with an increased use of unmarked and unidentified rental vehicles for immigration enforcement purposes. Last year, U.S. border patrol agents conducting an immigration raid outside Home Depot in Los Angeles utilized an unmarked Penske rental truck to arrest more than a dozen people.¹⁴ In Illinois, there were reports of public complaints of immigration agents switching license plates on rented vehicles in order to disguise the vehicles.¹⁵ This led the Illinois Secretary of State's office to issue letters to at least 19 rental car companies about this unlawful practice.¹⁶

- 3) **Effect of this Bill:** This bill seeks to address the use of unmarked vehicles for federal immigration enforcement purposes by requiring any privately owned vehicle rented by a federal, state, or local law enforcement agency, for the detention, arrest, or transportation of persons who have violated the law, or who are suspected of violating the law, to have a temporary decal displaying the agency name or logo. The identifying information must be displayed in a sharp contrast to the background on the front door panels and must be readily legible during the day from a distance of 50 feet. The government entity is responsible for creating and affixing the decal to the vehicle. Any failure to comply with this requirement may be enforced by a civil action, as specified. This would not apply to any rental car contract entered into prior to January 1, 2027.

The bill additionally establishes specified public safety exemptions to this temporary decal requirement. Specifically, this requirement would not apply to a privately owned vehicle rented to any federal, state, or local law enforcement agency for any of the following purposes: 1) an officer engaged in plainclothes operations who is employed by specified state agencies, such as the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency and the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, among others, or by any department, board, commission, or other entity within those agencies or the federal equivalent of these state agencies; 2) exigent circumstances involving an imminent danger to persons or property, the escape of a

⁹ Fry and Uzcategui-Ligget, *Immigration Arrests surge by 1,500% in San Diego: 'I feel the temperature rising'*, Cal Matters (Jan. 29, 2026), available at: <https://calmatters.org/justice/2026/01/san-diego-immigration-arrest-surge/>

¹⁰ David McSwane, *Two CBP Agents Identified in Alex Pretti Shooting*, ProPublica (Feb. 1, 2026), available at: <https://www.propublica.org/article/alex-pretti-shooting-cbp-agents-identified-jesus-ochoa-raymundo-gutierrez>

¹¹ Bustillo and Mukherjee, *Immigration detention on track for deadliest fiscal year since 2004*, NPR (March 10, 2026), available at: <https://www.npr.org/2026/03/10/g-s1-111238/immigration-detention-deaths-custody>

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ Sam Levin, *Border patrol agents jump out of rental truck and ambush people at LA Home Depot* (Aug. 6, 2025), available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/aug/06/ice-border-patrol-home-depot-los-angeles>

¹⁵ Natasha Korecki, *Illinois officials warn rental car companies that it is illegal for immigration agents to swap license plates* (Dec. 2, 2025), available at: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/illinois-rental-car-license-plates-immigration-agents-illegal-rcna246115>

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

perpetrator, or the destruction of evidence, including if the officer is responding to one of these circumstances while off duty; 3) privately owned vehicles rented to, or otherwise furnished or loaned to, a SWAT or tactical team unit that is actively performing their tactical team responsibilities; 4) privately owned vehicles rented to an officer engaged in protective operations involving elected officials, judicial officers, or other designated dignitaries if the display of identification would compromise the safety, anonymity, or tactical effectiveness of the protection detail; and 5) an officer engaged in active undercover operations or investigative activities.

These exemptions are largely modelled after similar public safety exemptions that exist for requirements that law enforcement display identification on their person, as established by SB 805 (Pérez), Chapter 126, Statutes of 2025. SB 805 required non-uniformed peace officers and federal law enforcement officers operating in California to visibly display identification that includes their agency and either a name or badge number, or both name and badge number, when performing their enforcement duties. (Pen. Code, § 13654, subds. (a) & (d)(2).) It similarly exempted officers engaging in active undercover operations, officers engaging in plainclothes operations for specified state agencies and their federal equivalents, officers responding in exigent circumstances, officers assigned to SWAT, and officers engaged in protective operations involving elected officials and judicial officers. (Pen. Code, § 13654, subd. (b)(2), (4), & (5).)

- 4) **Argument in Support:** According to the *Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights, CHIRLA*, “Since the summer of 2025, ICE agents have been raiding the streets, targeting immigrant communities, families, and innocent civilians. Starting with the raids in Los Angeles, suspect ICE enforcement activities have spread throughout California, including in San Diego, Sacramento, San Francisco, and other cities. Advocacy campaigns and public debates have exposed that rental companies provide vehicles for ICE operations, prompting protests and calls for corporate accountability.

“CHIRLA supports AB 1650 (Caloza) because it increases transparency and accountability when law enforcement, including ICE, uses rental vehicles in our communities. By requiring clear identification, this bill helps prevent confusion, fear and potential abuse, ensuring community members can recognize legitimate authority and stay safe.

“At a time when concerns about the intersection of private industry and federal enforcement activities are growing nationwide, California has an opportunity to lead with a policy that prioritizes safety, clarity, and respect for community trust. AB 1650 is a reasonable, targeted response that helps ensure enforcement activities are conducted in a manner consistent with these values.”

- 5) **Argument in Opposition:** According to the *California Chamber of Commerce*, “At a philosophical level, we do not believe that businesses should be compelled to participate in disagreements between California policymakers and the federal policies of the present – or any future – administration. Were the situation reversed, and federal law attempted to prohibit businesses from serving a California agency – for example, a law prohibiting all software providers from contracting with California’s Labor and Workforce Development Agency – we would be equally opposed, for the reasons outlined below.

“First, such political differences are necessarily short-term. Presidential administrations must end, and policies may be changed even within a President’s term. The laws passed in response, however, will linger long after a given federal policy ends or is changed. Practically speaking, if **AB 1650** were to pass, but the federal administration’s policies on immigration enforcement were to change, this law would nevertheless remain in effect *indefinitely*.

“Second, this kind of law invites difficult state-to-state and state-vs-national conflicts for national companies, which we oppose. Here, California may pass a law aimed at preventing a business from contracting with a federal agency – because California understandably disapproves of the conduct at issue. Conversely, another state may pass a law punishing companies who do not fully support a federal policy – and punishing those who comply with California’s law. In other words: businesses end up stuck between competing political priorities for different politicians in different regions when the business is merely trying to continue to operate. We oppose such “rock-and-a-hard-place” choices for businesses operating in California...

“We also have practical concerns about how a rental car company would safely comply and avoid violations. For example, a front desk clerk for the rental car company may be required to confront a group of armed federal agents if they demand to rent a car in violation of the statute. We do not want to put employees in this position.

“Furthermore, we have concerns with how rental car companies are expected to identify such agents where there is no indication they are ICE agents. Online bookings, for example, will not indicate that such individuals are law enforcement agents, and certainly will not identify the purpose for which the vehicle will be used. Again, clerks will be forced to confront potentially armed agents and refuse them service after they have booked a vehicle and arrive to collect it.

“Finally, we have concerns that the bill does not consider whether a vehicle that was properly rented with appropriate decals might have its decals *removed* by the *renter*. Instead, the bill would appear to continue to place legal liability on the rental car business.”

6) **Prior Legislation:**

- a) SB 805 (Pérez), Chapter 126, Statutes of 2025, requires law enforcement agencies to adopt policies on visible display of identification, requires specified law enforcement officers operating in California who are not uniformed to visibly display identification that includes either a name or badge number to the public when performing their duties, and expands the crime of false personation of a peace officer.
- b) SB 627 (Wiener), Chapter 125, Statutes of 2025, makes it a crime for specified law enforcement officers, including federal officers, to wear a facial covering in the performance of the duties, except as specified, and requires any law enforcement agency operating in California to maintain and publicly post a written policy limiting the use of facial coverings, as specified.

- c) AB 798 (Ramos), Chapter 282, Statutes of 2021, authorizes federally recognized tribes to operate, inspect, maintain, and drive emergency vehicles used in responding to emergency calls for fire or law enforcement.

- d) AB 1654 (Conway), of the 2009-2010 Legislative Session, would have authorized school district governing boards that do not operate security or police departments to provide and maintain motor vehicles for the use of the district in emergency situations, and would have specified that these vehicles would be authorized emergency vehicles. AB 1654 was never heard in the Assembly Committee on Education.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Aapi Equity Alliance (UNREG)
Associated Students of the University of California
Associated Students Ucsb
California Community Foundation
Cft – a Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, Aft, Afl-cio
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
Homies Unidos INC
Initiate Justice
International Institute of Los Angeles
Pilipino Workers Center
Ucla Undergraduate Student Association Council

Oppose

California Chamber of Commerce
Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC)

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