

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1685 (Lackey and Petrie-Norris)

As Amended August 21, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Increases the number of points that must be added to a person's driving record, from one to three, for the crime of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, and requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to make available or disclose the abstract of the conviction and abstract of the accident report for ten years, as specified, for the crime of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated.

Senate Amendments

Make the provisions of this bill operative on January 1, 2031.

COMMENTS

As Passed by the Assembly, this bill: Increased the number of points that must be added to a person's driving record, from one to three, for the crime of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, and requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to make available or disclose the abstract of the conviction and abstract of the accident report for ten years, as specified, for the crime of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated.

According to the Author

"As a California Highway Patrol (CHP) officer, I have stood on the side of the road with families who have just lost loved ones to drunk drivers. Those scenes will never leave me. We owe it to those families to hold repeat offenders accountable. AB 1685 does this by increasing the points for vehicular manslaughter and vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated from two to three points, bringing repeat offenders one step closer to license suspension."

Arguments in Support

According to the *Peace Officers' Research Association of California*, "AB 1685 enhances access to critical public safety information by ensuring that records related to serious driving offenses—specifically gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and with gross negligence—are available within the same 10-year timeframe as driving under the influence-related violations. Aligning these disclosure standards promotes consistency in the law and ensures that relevant information is accessible when evaluating dangerous driving behavior.

"From a law enforcement perspective, access to accurate and complete records is essential to protecting public safety, supporting investigations, and informing decision-making related to enforcement and accountability. Expanding the availability of these records for one of the most serious impaired driving offenses helps ensure that the full scope of an individual's conduct is appropriately considered."

Arguments in Opposition

According to *ACLU California Action*, "If AB 1685 is passed, people convicted of gross vehicular homicide while intoxicated will receive three points on their driving record. The

additional point is a duplicative administrative penalty that will result in more unnecessary costs, all while not addressing the root cause of unsafe driving in California

"In California, accumulating points on one's driving record can result in license suspension, increased insurance costs, and other administrative hurdles. A person's license may be suspended if they accumulate four points in twelve months, six points in 24 months, or eight points in 36 months. Courts and the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) may also suspend a person's driving record for receiving a conviction for several offenses, including vehicular homicide. Assessing an additional point on a person's driving record for a conviction of vehicular manslaughter is therefore duplicative.

"Further, the assessment of points and the suspension of driver's licenses do not get at the root causes of unsafe driving. In-car safety mechanisms, such as pedestrian-crash avoidance systems, and road design changes are all proven to provide lower instances of car crashes and fewer fatalities. In contrast, no evidence similarly shows that adding points improves safety. Rather, receiving points on a driving record can have devastating consequences to low-income Californians and their families, including increased costs of insurance and even the loss of a driver's license. The loss of a driver's license is a major threat to economic security, particularly for low-income Californians and their families. Numerous studies have found a direct correlation between driving and employment.

"A task force report to the Governor of New Jersey cited a survey of suspended drivers conducted by Rutgers University researchers, which found that following a license suspension, 42% of people lost their jobs as a result of the suspension. Of those who lost their jobs, 45% could not find another job, and this effect was most pronounced for seniors and low-income people. Of those who were able to find new employment, 88% reported decreased wages."

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, "The DMV indicates that it would incur significant one-time costs to make necessary IT systems changes to enable the creation of a new violation point count for specified offenses and to update driving records accordingly. DMV's legacy systems have limited capacity to accommodate new functionality and are currently being replaced through the Enterprise Modernization Project (the Digital eXperience Platform, or DXP). As a result, implementation would either require modifications within DXP, potentially increasing project costs and/or delaying implementation, or development of a temporary solution outside the legacy environment, resulting in duplicative costs, additional technology procurement, and approvals. Assuming a temporary solution is required, implementation costs are expected to be at least in the low millions, and potentially higher depending on the final scope of work, implementation timelines, and the technology solution ultimately required. Direct modifications to legacy systems would likely result in significantly higher costs. Staff notes that DMV would be unable to make the necessary programming changes by the January 1, 2027 operative date of this bill. (Motor Vehicle Account)"

VOTES:

ASM PUBLIC SAFETY: 8-0-1

YES: Schultz, Alanis, Mark González, Harabedian, Lackey, Nguyen, Ramos, Sharp-Collins

ABS, ABST OR NV: Haney

ASM TRANSPORTATION: 15-0-1

YES: Wilson, Davies, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Carrillo, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Jackson, Lackey, Macedo, Papan, Ransom, Rogers, Sharp-Collins

ABS, ABST OR NV: Ávila Farías

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-0

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0-8

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Calderon, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

ABS, ABST OR NV: Bryan, Caloza, Elhawary, Kalra, Lee, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

UPDATED

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CONSULTANT: Ilan Zur / PUB. S. / (916) 319-3744

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