SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1687 (Lackey) - Driver's licenses: revocation

Version: June 4, 2026
Urgency: No
Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: PUB. S. 6 - 0, TRANS. 12 - 0
Mandate: No
Consultant: Mark McKenzie

Bill Summary: AB 1687 would authorize the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to revoke a person's driving privileges for eight years if they are convicted of three or more specified impaired driving offenses (commonly referred to as DUI offenses) within a ten-year period.

Fiscal Impact:
- The DMV indicates that it would incur significant one-time costs to make necessary IT systems changes to create a new permissive license revocation and restricted license program. 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 requiring additional 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)

Background: Existing law makes it unlawful for any person under the influence or alcohol or a drug to drive a motor vehicle, which is generally referred to as a DUI offense. Existing law specifies numerous types of DUI offenses, based primarily on whether the offense results in any damage, injury, or death caused while driving intoxicated, or on the number of prior DUI violations.

California's administration suspension laws require DMV to suspend a person's license, prior to a conviction, if they refuse to submit to or fail to complete a chemical test or alcohol screening test, or if law enforcement reports indicate that the person had blood alcohol content (BAC) in excess of specified thresholds. The DMV must hold an administrative review to determine if facts warrant a driver's license suspension, and if the department upholds the action, or if no hearing is requested, a license suspension goes into effect, regardless of whether a court convicts the person of a specified DUI violation. The suspension period is for a period of four months for a first DUI offense, and one year for a second or subsequent offense within a 10-year period. Upon suspension, a person may apply for a restricted driver's license if they enroll in a specified DUI program, install and maintain an “ignition interlock device” (IID), and pay specified fees.

In addition to this administrative process, a criminal process plays out in which the court determines whether the person has committed a criminal offense. A conviction may then result in some combination of jail or prison time, fines, participation in a DUI program, further license suspensions, and enrollment in IID programs, with penalties increasing in severity based on the number and type of prior convictions. Generally, for license suspensions, a first offense comes with a suspension of up to one year, depending on specified circumstances. A second DUI results in a two- to three-year suspension, a third DUI results in a three- to five-year suspension, and a fourth or subsequent DUI results in a minimum four-year suspension.

Additional license suspension terms may apply if the person has certain previous felony convictions for impaired driving, which generally results in a suspension period of at least four years. Courts also have discretion to order a 10-year license revocation period if a person has been convicted of three or more separate DUIs, under specified circumstances. Finally, courts can order that the term of license suspension does not begin until any jail or prison sentence is served.

Proposed Law: AB 1687, “Irene’s Law,” would authorize DMV to revoke a person’s driving privileges for eight years if they are convicted of three or more specified DUI offenses within a ten-year period. Specifically, this bill would:

- Authorize DMV to revoke the driving privileges of a person convicted of three or more of the following violations, or a combination of those violations, within a ten-year period:
  - A DUI, including those related to prior DUI offenses and a DUI causing bodily injury or great bodily injury, as specified.
  - Vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, as specified.
  - Gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, as specified.
  - Gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated while operating a vessel, as specified.
- Prohibit DMV from reinstating those revoked privileges for eight years and until the person gives proof of financial responsibility, as specified.
- Authorize a person whose driving privileges were revoked to apply to the DMV to have their license reinstated four years from the date of the last conviction of a specified DUI offense, subject to the condition that the person files specified paperwork and agrees to install and maintain an IID. The IID must remain on the person’s vehicle for two years following reinstatement of driving privileges.
- Require DMV to reinstate driving privileges if the person satisfies all of the following conditions:
  - The person was not convicted of any drug or alcohol related offenses under state law during the driver’s license revocation period.
  - The person successfully completed a specified DUI program following the date of the last DUI violation, if completion of such a program is required
  - The person was not convicted of violating specified prohibitions against driving on a suspended or revoked license, as specified, during the revocation period.
- Require DMV to immediately revoke the person’s restricted driving privileges if they attempt to remove, bypass, or tamper with the IID, or fails three or more times to

comply with any requirement for the maintenance or calibration of the IID, as specified.

Related Legislation: AB 1546 (Schultz), which is currently pending in this Committee, would increase the penalty for a DUI conviction with two prior convictions from a misdemeanor to a wobbler and increase the penalty for a DUI with four or more priors from a wobbler to a felony, and increase the license revocation period for those violations from four years to five years, as specified.

AB 1685 (Lackey), which is currently pending in this Committee, would require DMV to assign three violation points against a driver's record for a conviction of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and with gross negligence, as specified, and require the DMV to keep a record of such a conviction for 10 years.

Staff Comments: According to the DMV, resources are fully committed to current IT modernization efforts, and coordinating implementation of this bill within DXP may delay the IT efforts necessary to implement the bill and/or increase DXP Platform costs. In order to implement this bill by January 1, 2027, DMV would have to build a temporary solution outside of the core legacy systems, which will be costly, redundant, and will require the department to acquire new technology and services. Additionally, DMV notes that it is unclear how the license revocation authorized under this bill will work with existing license actions related to those convicted of a DUI. Currently, under the Statewide IID Pilot Program, multiple and injury-involved DUI offenders are required to immediately install an IID for a specified period of time upon conviction.

The Motor Vehicle Account (MVA) is the primary funding source for the California Highway Patrol and DMV. The MVA has had a structural deficit since the 2021-22 fiscal year, with expenditures exceeding revenues by approximately $60 million in the current year, and approximately $112 million in the budget year (projected). Absent further actions to address the MVA fund condition, approving any new proposals that increase MVA expenditures would exacerbate the current structural imbalance of the fund. The Budget Summary published for the proposed 2026-27 Budget notes that "the MVA will be insolvent as soon as 2028-29. Given the ongoing fiscal constraints in the MVA, the Administration will continue to limit new workload or initiatives, including those with delayed implementation dates that would create additional cost pressures over time."

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