

Date of Hearing: March 10, 2026

Counsel: Ilan Zur

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Nick Schultz, Chair

AB 1723 (Ellis) – As Introduced February 5, 2026

**SUMMARY:** Specifies that the “date of revocation,” for purposes of the prohibition against the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) reinstating a person’s driving privilege until the expiration of three years after the date of revocation, for persons convicted of certain vehicle-related crimes, means the date the DMV revokes a person’s privilege to drive a motor vehicle, as specified, and not the date of conviction.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Defines “revocation” of a driver’s license to mean that the person’s privilege to drive a motor vehicle is terminated, and a new driver’s license may be obtained after the period of revocation. (Veh. Code, § 13101.)
- 2) Provides that whenever in the Vehicle Code the DMV is required to suspend or revoke the privilege of a person to operate a motor vehicle upon the conviction of such a person of violating the Vehicle Code, such suspension or revocation shall begin upon a plea, finding, or verdict of guilty. (Veh. Code, § 13366.)
- 3) Provides that notwithstanding the above provision, whenever in the Vehicle Code the DMV is required to disqualify the commercial driving privilege of a person to operate a commercial motor vehicle upon a conviction for violating the Vehicle Code, the suspension or revocation shall begin upon receipt by the DMV of a duly certified abstract of any court record showing that the person has been so convicted. (Veh. Code, § 13366.5.)
- 4) Provides that if a person is convicted of a hit and run, a DUI, or a DUI causing bodily injury and is sentenced to one year in a county jail or more than one year in the state prison under specified DUI sentencing statutes, the court may postpone the revocation or suspension of the person’s driving privilege until the term of imprisonment is served. (Veh. Code, § 23665, subd. (a).)
- 5) Requires the clerk of a court in which a person was convicted of certain offenses, including a violation of the Vehicle Code or a violation of any other statute relating to the safe operation of vehicles, among others, to prepare within five days after conviction and immediately forward to the DMV, an abstract of the record of the court covering the case in which the person was so convicted. (Veh. Code, § 1803, subd. (a)(1).)
- 6) Requires, generally, the DMV, for criminal offenses that result in a criminal license suspension or revocation, to immediately suspend or revoke the privilege of a person to drive a motor vehicle upon receipt of a duly certified abstract of the record of a court showing that

the person has been convicted of specified offenses. (Veh. Code, §§ 13350, subd. (a); 13351, subd. (a); 13352, subd. (a).)

- 7) Requires the DMV, when the privilege of a person to operate a motor vehicle is suspended or revoked, to notify the person by first-class mail of the action taken and of the effective date of that suspension or revocation, except for those persons personally given notice by the DMV, a court, or a peace officer as specified, or otherwise pursuant to the Vehicle Code. (Veh. Code, § 13106, subd. (a).)
- 8) Authorizes the DMV to suspend the privilege of any person to operate a motor vehicle upon receipt of a duly certified abstract of the record of any court showing that the person has been convicted of any of the following crimes or offenses:
  - a) Failure to stop in the event of an accident resulting in damage to property only or otherwise failing to comply with the requirements to immediately stop at the scene of an accident resulting in only damage to property and perform certain duties;
  - b) A second or subsequent conviction of reckless driving; or,
  - c) Misdemeanor vehicular manslaughter. (Veh. Code, § 13361.)
- 9) Establishes a mandatory one-year criminal license revocation for certain crimes, as follows:
  - a) Requires the DMV to immediately revoke the privilege of a person to drive a vehicle upon receipt of a duly certified abstract of the record of a court showing that the person has been convicted of any of the following crimes or offenses:
    - i) Failure of a driver involved in an accident resulting in injury or death to a person to stop or otherwise comply with the requirements to perform specified duties at the scene of the accident;
    - ii) A felony in the commission of which a motor vehicle is used, except for offenses mandating a three-year license revocation, or other crimes subject to separate suspension and revocation rules, including a DUI, DUI causing bodily injury, and specified speed contest or exhibition of speed offenses, among others; or,
    - iii) Reckless driving causing bodily injury. (Veh. Code, § 13350, subd. (a).)
  - b) Prohibits the DMV from reinstating the driving privilege revoked pursuant to the above until the expiration of one year after the date of revocation and until the person whose privilege was revoked gives proof of financial responsibility, as specified. (Veh. Code, § 13350, subd. (c).)
- 10) Establishes a mandatory three-year license revocation for certain crimes, as follows:
  - a) Requires the DMV to immediately revoke the privilege of a person to drive a vehicle upon receipt of a duly certified abstract of the record of a court showing that the person has been convicted of any of the following crimes or offenses:

- i) Manslaughter resulting from the operation of a motor vehicle, except for misdemeanor vehicular manslaughter;
  - ii) Conviction of three or more specified hit and run or reckless driving violations within a period of 12 months from the time of the first offense to the third or subsequent offense, or a combination of three or more convictions of violations within the same period; or,
  - iii) Violation of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated or vehicular manslaughter while operating a vessel with gross negligence or of fleeing or attempting to elude a peace officer, causing serious bodily injury resulting in specified serious impairments of physical condition, as specified. (Veh. Code, § 13351, subd. (a).)
- b) Prohibits the DMV from reinstating the driving privilege revoked pursuant to the above until the expiration of three years after the date of revocation and until the person whose privilege was revoked gives proof of financial responsibility, as defined. (Veh. Code, § 13351, subd. (b).)
- 11) Provides, generally, that if a court orders a person to install a functioning, certified ignition interlock device (IID) on any vehicle that person operates, the length of the term for which the IID must be installed commences from the date of conviction. (Veh. Code, §§ 23575, subds. (a)(1)-(2); 23575.3, subd. (h)(1)(A)(i).)
- 12) Requires the DMV, upon receipt of a duly certified abstract of the record of any court showing that the court has ordered the suspension of a driver's license because they committed road rage, as defined, to suspend the person's driving privilege in accordance with that suspension order commencing either on the date of the person's conviction or upon the person's release from confinement or imprisonment. (Veh. Code, § 13351.8.)
- 13) Requires the DMV to immediately suspend or revoke the privilege of a person to operate a motor vehicle upon receipt of an abstract of the record of a court showing that the person has been convicted of a DUI or DUI causing bodily injury, with the length of the license suspension or revocation depending on the person's number of prior<sup>1</sup> DUIs, as follows:
- a) A first DUI is a misdemeanor with a six-month license suspension, a DUI with one prior is a misdemeanor with a two-year license suspension, a DUI with two priors is a misdemeanor with a three-year license revocation, and a DUI with three or more priors is an alternate-felony misdemeanor (hereafter, "wobbler") with a four-year license revocation. (Veh. Code, §§ 13352, subd. (a)(1), (3), (5), & (7).)
  - b) A first DUI causing bodily injury is a wobbler with a one-year license suspension, a DUI causing bodily injury with one prior is a wobbler with a three-year license revocation, a

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<sup>1</sup> A "prior" means a separate DUI conviction under Vehicle Code sections 23152 (DUI), 23153 (DUI causing bodily injury), or a "wet reckless" conviction under 23103.5 (plea to reckless driving in satisfaction of an original DUI charge) that occurred within 10 years of the current violation.

DUI causing bodily injury with two or more priors is a felony with a five-year license revocation. (Veh. Code, §§ 13352, subd. (a)(2), (4) & (6).)

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) **Author's Statement:** According to the author, “For years, California has allowed drivers convicted of vehicular manslaughter continue to operate on the road, putting the lives of others at risk. Due to California courts failing to report convictions of vehicular manslaughter to the DMV, several hundreds of drivers with convictions have had their driving privileges revoked for less than the minimum three years. AB 1723 would clarify that the date of revocation of one’s driving privileges refers to the date the DMV revokes a person’s driving privileges, not the date of conviction. This will ensure that California’s most dangerous drivers do not have a reduced revocation period of their driving privileges.”
- 2) **Criminal License Suspensions and Revocations:** Certain vehicle-related crimes require the DMV to suspend or revoke a person’s driver’s license for a specified period. The process of suspending or revoking a license upon a criminal conviction is as follows. Upon conviction for certain vehicle-related offenses, including a violation of the Vehicle Code or a violation of any other statute relating to the safe operation of vehicles, among others, judicial clerks are required to send an abstract of the record of the court covering the case in which the person was convicted to the DMV within five days after conviction. (Veh. Code, § 1803, subd. (a)(1).) The DMV, upon receiving a certified abstract of the record establishing a conviction, is generally required to immediately suspend or revoke the driving privileges of the convicted person. (Veh. Code, §§ 13350, subd. (a); 13351, subd. (a); 13352, subd. (a).)

There are numerous distinct criminal license suspension and revocation statutes. Some crimes, such as a hit and run only resulting in damage to property, a second or subsequent reckless driving conviction, or misdemeanor vehicular manslaughter, are subject to discretionary suspensions. (Veh. Code, § 13361.) Others result in mandatory one-year revocations. (Veh. Code, § 13350, subs. (a) & (b).) Specifically, the DMV is required to immediately revoke a person’s driving license upon receiving a record of conviction for a hit and run resulting in injury or death, a felony involving the commission of a motor vehicle, except for offenses subject to separate suspension and revocation rules, and reckless driving causing bodily injury. (*Ibid.*) Most relevant to this bill, certain crimes require the DMV to revoke a person’s license for three years. The following offenses are subject to a three-year license revocation: 1) manslaughter resulting from the operation of a motor vehicle, except for misdemeanor vehicular manslaughter; 2) a conviction of three or more specified hit and run or reckless driving violations within a period of 12 months, as specified; and 3) a violation of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated or vehicular manslaughter while operating a vessel with gross negligence or of fleeing or attempting to elude a peace officer that causes serious bodily injury resulting in specified serious impairments of physical condition, as specified. (Veh. Code, § 13351, subd. (a).) Other convictions, such as those for a DUI or a DUI causing bodily injury, result in progressively longer license suspensions or revocations depending on the person’s number of prior DUIs. (Veh. Code, § 13352, subd. (a)(1)-(8).)

In terms of when criminal license revocations commence, the general rule is that where the Vehicle Code requires the DMV to suspend or revoke a person's driver's license for a conviction for violating the Vehicle Code, such suspension or revocation shall begin upon a plea, finding, or verdict of guilty. (Veh. Code, § 13366.) However, courts are authorized to postpone a person's revocation or suspension until their term of imprisonment is served for convictions for a hit and run, a DUI, and a DUI causing bodily injury, where the person is sentenced to one year in a county jail or more than one year in state prison under specified DUI sentencing statutes. (Veh. Code, § 23665, subd. (a).) If the Vehicle Code requires the DMV to disqualify a person's commercial driver's license for a conviction for violating the Vehicle Code, the suspension or revocation begins upon the DMV's receipt of a certified court record of a conviction. (Veh. Code, § 13366.5.)

- 3) **Impetus for this Bill:** The impetus for this bill is a recent Cal Matters report that shed light on communication gaps between courts and the DMV that may have resulted in certain defendants receiving reduced license revocation periods.<sup>2</sup> According to the article, courts “failed to report hundreds of vehicular manslaughter convictions to the state’s Department of Motor Vehicles over the past five years.”<sup>3</sup> As previously noted, vehicular manslaughter, other than misdemeanor vehicular manslaughter, requires the DMV, upon receipt of the court conviction record, to immediately revoke that person’s license for a period of three years. (Veh. Code, § 13351, subds. (a)-(b).) According to the article, a failure to report manslaughter convictions to the DMV led to at least one manslaughter conviction being belatedly reported to the DMV approximately two years after the defendant’s conviction.<sup>4</sup> The article suggests that since the DMV typically enforces driving revocation sanctions from the date of the conviction, and there was a significant delay in reporting this conviction to the DMV, this particular defendant may be subject to a reduced license revocation of approximately one year.<sup>5</sup>
- 4) **Effect of this Bill:** In an effort to prevent certain convictions that are belatedly reported to the DMV from receiving reduced license revocation periods, this bill provides that three-year license revocations do not commence until the DMV actually revokes a person’s license. Specifically, it states that the “date of revocation,” for purposes of the prohibition against the DMV reinstating a person’s driving privilege until the expiration of three years after the date of revocation, for certain crimes, means the date the DMV revokes a person’s privilege to drive a motor vehicle, and not the date of conviction.

The exact point in time at which a three-year license revocation commences is somewhat unclear. Section 13351 of the Vehicle Code requires the DMV to immediately revoke a person’s driving privileges upon receiving a certified court record of a conviction, for certain crimes, and specifies that the DMV “shall not reinstate the privilege revoked [pursuant to the above] until the expiration of three years after the date of revocation and until the person whose privilege was revoked gives proof of financial responsibility.” (Veh. Code, § 13351, subds. (a)-(b).) Given that this language refers to the “date of revocation” rather than “the date of conviction” a plain reading of the statute suggests that the three-year license

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<sup>2</sup> Hepler and Lewis, *They were convicted of killing with their cars. No one told the California DMV*, Cal Matters (June 25, 2026), available at: <https://calmatters.org/investigation/2025/06/california-courts-dmv/>

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

revocations only commences when the DMV actually revokes a defendant's driving privileges upon receipt of the record of conviction. Under this interpretation, this bill is largely declaratory of existing law. Further, other sections of the Vehicle Code that require IIDs for certain DUI offenders and mandate license suspensions for individuals who engage in road rage explicitly refer to those sanctions commencing on the date of the applicable conviction. (Veh. Code, §§ 13351.8; 23575, subds. (a)(1)-(2); 23575.3, subd. (h)(1)(A)(i).) This indicates that when the Legislature wishes a driving sanction to commence at the time of conviction, they explicitly say so, bolstering an interpretation that "date of revocation" does indeed refer to the date that the DMV actually revokes a defendant's license.

However, the general rule is that where the Vehicle Code requires the DMV to suspend or revoke a person's license for a conviction for violating the Vehicle Code, "such suspension or revocation shall begin upon a plea, finding, or verdict of guilty." (Veh. Code, § 13366.) Here, the mandatory three-year license revocation requirement is contained within the Vehicle Code, indicating that the "date of revocation," as used in Vehicle Code section 13351, is governed by Vehicle Code section 13366's general requirement that license revocations begin at the time of verdict of guilt. Recent reporting that belatedly reported manslaughter convictions resulted in reduced license revocation periods suggests that the revocation commencement date in those cases was likely the date of conviction.<sup>6</sup> However, Vehicle Code section 13366's default rule that license revocations "commence upon a plea, finding, or verdict of guilty" only applies to license revocations resulting from convictions for *violating the Vehicle Code*. (Veh. Code, § 13366.) Here, convictions that require three-year license revocations under Section 13351 include both Vehicle Code crimes (hit and run, reckless driving, fleeing a peace officer that causes serious bodily injury), and Penal Code crimes (manslaughter, gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, and vehicular manslaughter while operating a vessel with gross negligence.) (Veh. Code, § 13351, subd. (a).) This indicates that the three-year revocation required of Vehicle Code crimes may commence upon a person's conviction pursuant to Vehicle Code section 13366, while the revocations required of Penal Code crimes, such as manslaughter, may commence on the date the DMV actually revokes the person's license.

Given that courts are required to forward vehicle-related conviction information to the DMV within five days of the conviction, and the DMV must immediately revoke a person's license, when required, the distinction between a three-year license revocation commencing upon the date of conviction versus the date of actual DMV revocation may be minimal. However, in cases where there is a substantial delay in the court sending conviction information to the DMV, this bill could significantly postpone the commencement date of certain revocations.

- 5) **Argument in Support:** According to the *Conor Lynch Foundation*, "AB 1723 clarifies the revocation period for drivers convicted of vehicular manslaughter. Accountability and consistency are critical components of roadway safety. When a driver is convicted of vehicular manslaughter, the law intends that their driving privileges be revoked for a defined period. However, administrative delays can unintentionally shorten the effective revocation period. AB 1723 addresses this gap by clarifying that the revocation period begins when the

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<sup>6</sup> Hepler and Lewis, *They were convicted of killing with their cars. No one told the California DMV*, Cal Matters (June 25, 2026), available at: <https://calmatters.org/investigation/2025/06/california-courts-dmv/>

Department of Motor Vehicles formally revokes the license, rather than the date of conviction.

“For families affected by preventable roadway tragedies, policies that ensure accountability and consistency are essential. AB 1723 helps close an administrative loophole and reinforces California’s commitment to protecting the public.”

6) **Argument in Opposition:** None submitted.

7) **Related Legislation:**

- a) AB 1874 (Wilson), provides that when a court imposes a suspension or revocation of a person’s driver’s license as part of a criminal sentence, the period of suspension or revocation shall commence upon the person’s release from custody. AB 1874 is pending a hearing in this Committee.
- b) AB 1748 (Sanchez), lengthens the license suspension and revocation periods for first-time and repeat DUI offenders, among other changes. AB 1748 is pending a hearing in this Committee.
- c) AB 1687 (Lackey), punishes a person convicted of three or more specified vehicle offenses, including a DUI or a DUI causing bodily injury, among others, with an eight-year license revocation. AB 1687 is pending a hearing in this Committee.
- d) AB 1546 (Schultz), increases the punishment for a DUI with two priors from a misdemeanor to a wobblers and increases the punishment for a DUI with four or more priors from a wobblers to a straight felony, and increases the license revocation period for a DUI with four or more priors from four years to five years, among other changes. AB 1546 is pending a hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

8) **Prior Legislation:**

- a) AB 2337 (Linder), of the 2013-2014 Legislative Session, would have extended, by one year, the revocation period of an individual’s driver’s license if they were convicted of a hit-and-run accident in which another individual is killed or seriously injured. AB 2337 was vetoed.
- b) AB 1104 (Pan), of the 2011-2012 Legislative Session, would have required, rather than allowed, driver’s license revocations for specified DUIs to be delayed until offenders are released from prison or county jail. AB 1104 was never heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.
- c) AB 1601 (Hill), Chapter 301, Statutes of 2010, permits a court to order a 10-year revocation of a driver's license for a person convicted of three or more separate DUIs.
- d) AB 2258 (Benoit), of the 2005-2006 Legislative Session, would have created an alternate misdemeanor-felony and mandatory jail time for a fourth offense of driving on a suspended license, and required a four-year license revocation for this offense, as specified. AB 2258 failed passage in this Committee.

- e) AB 4 (Bogh) of the 2004-2005 Legislative Session would have permanently revoked the driver's license of a person convicted of a third or subsequent violation of specified DUI provisions. AB 4 was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

Conor Lynch Foundation  
Mothers Against Drunk Driving  
Social Families for Safe Streets

**Opposition**

None Submitted

**Analysis Prepared by:** Ilan Zur / PUB. S. / (916) 319-3744