

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1724 (Ellis) – As Amended April 9, 2026

Policy Committee: Judiciary

Vote: 12 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Judicial Council, commencing January 1, 2028, and every three years thereafter, to prepare and submit a report to the Legislature summarizing each superior court's compliance with the deadlines in Vehicle Code Section 1803 for transmitting abstracts of the record to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for specified DUI, street racing, and vehicular manslaughter convictions.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

The Judicial Council reports costs of an unknown, but potentially significant amount (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund) for staff time to coordinate with the 58 superior courts, analyze compliance data, and prepare the triennial report. The Judicial Council indicates that legislative reports are generally absorbable, but notes it is unclear whether all superior courts can retrieve abstract transmission dates from their case management systems through a simple query, or whether system modifications would be required. To the extent case management system modifications are needed at one or more superior courts to produce reliable compliance data, potentially significant one-time IT costs could arise.

Although courts are not funded on the basis of workload, increased pressure on the Trial Court Trust Fund may create a demand for increased funding for courts from the General Fund. The state budget provides annual General Fund backfills to the Trial Court Trust Fund to offset revenue reductions, totaling approximately \$117.3 million in 2025-26.

The Legislative Analyst's Office recently warned of General Fund structural deficits of around \$35 billion per year beginning in the 2027-28 fiscal year.

**COMMENTS:**

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

For years, California has allowed drivers convicted of serious offenses [to] 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 DMV within 5 days of conviction as required by state law, several hundreds of drivers with convictions have been able to keep their driving privileges when they should have been revoked.

- 2) **Background.** Vehicle Code Section 1803 requires superior court clerks, within five days after conviction of specified vehicle- and boating-related offenses, to prepare and transmit an abstract of the record to the DMV. The DMV uses these abstracts to update driver records and, where appropriate, initiate license suspension or revocation. Timely transmission is necessary both for license actions and for insurers' access to driving record information. A 2025 CalMatters investigative series reported that, between 2019 and 2024, at least 400 driving-related convictions — including DUIs, street racing offenses, and gross vehicular manslaughter convictions — were not posted to defendants' DMV records. The series attributed the gaps to a combination of case management system limitations, inconsistent court practices, and the fact that not all driving-related offenses are prosecuted as Vehicle Code violations (making the transmission trigger less straightforward). This bill responds by requiring the Judicial Council to assess and report on superior court compliance with the Section 1803 transmission requirement for a defined set of high-priority offenses.

The DMV already produces an annual report to the Legislature — the California DUI Management Information System Report, required under AB 757 (Chapter 450, Statutes of 1989) — that includes county-level data on DUI arrests, convictions, post-conviction sanctions, and license suspension or revocation actions. The Judicial Council has flagged that the DUI-specific components of this bill (Vehicle Code Sections 23152 and 23153) would be duplicative of information already reported by the DMV.

The bill tracks Vehicle Code Section 1803, which expressly enumerates subdivision (a) of Penal Code Section 192.5 — vehicular manslaughter while operating a vessel. The author's statement and the policy committee analysis, however, describe the bill as addressing gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, which is codified at Penal Code Section 191.5. Section 191.5 is not among the offenses specifically enumerated in Vehicle Code Section 1803; those convictions instead reach the DMV under Section 1803's general catch-all for "any other statute relating to the safe operation of vehicles."

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