CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS
AB 2280 (Johnson)
As Amended August 17, 2026
Majority vote

SUMMARY

Authorizes a repossession agency to file a lien against a vehicle if a lien is not in place.

Senate Amendments
Delay implementation until January 1, 2029.

COMMENTS

Bureau of Security and Investigative Services (*BSIS) and collateral recovery.* A repossession agency contracts with a legal owner (e.g., credit grantor of personal property) to locate and/or recover property sold under a security agreement. The most common property recovered is a motor vehicle. Each repossession agency licensee must designate a person, who is associated with the license in the Bureau of Security and Investigative Services' (Bureau) records, to serve as the qualified manager. The qualified manager is responsible for managing and directing the day-to-day activities of the licensed business, and may be the licensee, an agent of the licensee (e.g., officer of a corporation), or any other person designated by the licensee to serve in this capacity. A repossession agent is the employee of the repossession agency whose duties entail locating and recovering the property.

The Act specifies that a repossession agency must hold a repossession agency license, persons serving as the qualified manager must hold a qualified manager certificate, and employees of a repossession company who locate and repossess property must hold a repossession agent registration issued by the Bureau.

Repossessors filing liens. Under existing law, once a vehicle has been repossessed, a repossession agency may not release the vehicle unless expressly authorized to do so by the legal owner. However, in many cases, after determining that a repossessed vehicle is not worth sending to auction, the legal owner abandons the vehicle on the repossession agency's lot, leaving repossession agencies burdened with the indefinite storage of unclaimed vehicles. Civil Code Section 3067-3074 establishes a process for filing liens on vehicles, however some repossession agencies report being told by the Department of Motor Vehicles that they are not permitted to file such liens. This bill clarifies that the repossession agency can file a lien under the Civil Code.

According to the Author
"AB 2280 is a simple clarification bill that ensures licensed repossession agencies can lien sale vehicles that are no longer wanted by the original lienholder or financial institution that requested repossession. This codifies an existing practice that had been in place for decades, until a change in DMV policy starting in 2024. Without this change, licensed repossessors are stuck with unwanted repossessed vehicles on their lots indefinitely. As recently amended, AB 2280 strikes the necessary balance between mere clarification of law and protection of private property rights for financial intuitions and consumers."

Arguments in Support
The California Association for Licensed Repossessors, *the sponsors of this bill*, argue, "For years, the DMV allowed repossession companies to lien sale vehicles that were abandoned by the registered owners of the vehicle and legal owners of the vehicle (banks or finance companies) and were being stored on the repossession company private property lots. In 2024, the DMV abruptly disallowed repossession companies from filing these liens on the vehicles without explanation or a change in statute. As a result, repossession companies now have abandoned vehicles sitting in storage on their lots that they have no means of disposing of. This clarification of statute will ensure that the proper procedures of lien sales are followed, giving legal and registered owners' opportunity to dispute any proposed sale, if desired, while also giving a repossessor a means of disposing of undisputed abandoned vehicles."

Arguments in Opposition
None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

This bill was keyed nonfiscal by Legislative Counsel.

VOTES:

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

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 67-0-13
YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bauer-Kahan, Berman, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Fong, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Solache, Soria, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
ABS, ABST OR NV: Bains, Bennett, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Ellis, Flora, Gabriel, Macedo, Petrie-Norris, Celeste Rodriguez, Sharp-Collins, Stefani

UPDATED

VERSION: August 17, 2026

CONSULTANT: David Sforza / TRANS. / (916) 319-2093 FN: 0003877