

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2437 (Chen) – As Amended April 9, 2026

Policy Committee: Transportation

Vote: 15 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill requires a person that operates a facility to store impounded vehicles to accept a valid bank debit card and prohibits any person from requiring the legal owner of a vehicle or the legal owner's agent to present any documentation other than the documents specified in statute to obtain a vehicle from an impounding agency after it has been impounded.

FISCAL EFFECT:

No state costs.

COMMENTS:

The author contends Californians attempting to recover impounded vehicles face unreasonable delays and intends this bill to alleviate the situation. According to the author:

Currently, consumers and repossession agencies face delays in retrieving impounded vehicles due to administrative burdens and inconsistent release procedures in code. This bill seeks to lift those burdens and prevent delays by ensuring that debit cards can be utilized when retrieving a impounded vehicle from the tow yard, that only the documentation required by statute is needed for a repossession agency to retrieve a vehicle from a tow yard, and streamlining vehicle codes to utilize one, consistent, release procedure that requires expired registration be current before a consumer can retrieve their vehicle from a repossession agency.

This bill is very similar to AB 2656 (Chen), of the 2017-18 Legislative Session, when the committee considered that bill. Ultimately, AB 2656 was vetoed by Governor Brown.

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