

Date of Hearing: April 29, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Buffy Wicks, Chair
AB 2453 (Michelle Rodriguez) – As Amended March 26, 2026

Policy Committee: Transportation

Vote: 16 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill (1) amends existing law, which authorizes a peace officer to operate or drive an off-highway vehicle (OHV) on a highway in an emergency response situation, to also allow a first responder to operate or drive an OHV on a highway in an emergency response situation and (2) establishes conditions according to which a peace officer or first responder may operate or drive an OHV on a highway while performing official duties

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Authorizes a local authority to adopt rules and regulations by ordinance or resolution regarding the use of OHVs by peace officers or first responders on highways within the local authority's jurisdiction while performing official duties, provided the local authority adopts a policy or plan governing such use, subject to certain requirements, including that such an OHV be operated on a highway for up to five miles for the purpose of accessing an OHV recreational area or location of patrol, and allows peace officer or first responder to operate or drive an OHV on a highway in accordance with such a policy or plan.
- 2) Amends existing law to allow a first responder to operate or drive an OHV on a highway in an emergency response situation.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Minor state costs, if any.

COMMENTS:

Current law allows a peace officer to operate or drive an OHV on a highway in an emergency response situation; however, current law makes no such provision for a first responder. And the law says nothing about the authority of a peace officer or a first responder to operate an OHV on a highway while performing official duties. This bill addresses both issues and is supported by both the City of Carlsbad and the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, which describes the bill as "important clarity and operational flexibility for the use of off-highway motor vehicles (OHVs) by peace officers and first responders in the performance of their official duties.

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