

Date of Hearing: May 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
Buffy Wicks, Chair  
AB 2719 (Petrie-Norris) – As Amended March 16, 2026

Policy Committee: Transportation Vote: 16 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: No Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill defines “title,” “certificate of title” or “certificate of ownership” to mean an official record, whether in paper or electronic form, establishing and providing proof of legal ownership of a vehicle.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

Minor state costs.

**COMMENTS:**

Existing law requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), upon registering a vehicle, to issue a certificate of ownership to the legal owner of the vehicle. The law specifies information to be included in the certificate of ownership; however, the law says nothing about the medium in which the certificate is to exist.

As required by state law, DMV has an Electronic Lien and Title Program (ELT), through which, according to DMV, it:

keeps California Certificates of Title in an electronic format in a database instead of in a physical location. To participate, lienholders must become an ELT service provider or contract with one of DMV’s approved ELT service providers to transmit vehicle and title data. DMV will assign each participating lienholder a unique ELT ID so they can access and manage their electronic records.

According to bill proponent Vitu, the Vehicle Code “remains anchored in a paper-based model that no longer reflects how the system actually works” and this bill provides a narrow, technical fix. Similarly, the California New Car Dealers asserts:

Our members process thousands of title transactions each month, transfers of ownership, lien originations, lien releases, and sales to consumers, the vast majority of which already occur through electronic systems. The DMV’s own infrastructure supports this. And yet, dealers are routinely required to maintain parallel paper workflows because the Vehicle Code has not caught up with the way the system actually operates. AB 2719 fixes that.

**Analysis Prepared by:** Jay Dickenson / APPR. / (916) 319-2081