
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 630
Author: Mark González (D), et al.
Amended: 9/4/25 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 6/24/25
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Gonzalez, Pérez, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 6-1, 8/29/25
AYES: Caballero, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson
NOES: Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 70-0, 5/23/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Abandoned recreational vehicles

SOURCE: Office of Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass

DIGEST: This bill authorizes the Counties of Alameda and Los Angeles, until January 1, 2030, to implement a program to remove and dispose of an abandoned recreational vehicle if the recreational vehicle is estimated to have a value of \$4,000 or less and the public agency has verified that the recreational vehicle is inoperable, as specified.

Senate Floor Amendments of 9/4/25 clarify that reporting requirements only apply to local public agencies.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Makes it unlawful for a peace officer or an unauthorized person to remove an unattended vehicle from a highway to a garage or to any other place except as provided for by California statute. (Vehicle (Veh.) Code, § 22650, subd. (a).)

- 2) Specifies that the removal and storage of a vehicle, as authorized by California statute, is a seizure and must be reasonable under the Fourth Amendment and California Constitution. (Veh. Code, § 22650, subd. (b).)
- 3) Provides that vehicle removals authorized by any authority, including California statute, that are based on the community caretaking exception, are reasonable only if the removal was necessary to achieve the community caretaking need, such as ensuring the safe flow of traffic or protecting property from theft or vandalism. (Veh. Code, § 22650, subd. (b).)
- 4) Provides that law enforcement and other agencies having authority to remove vehicles shall also have the authority to provide hearings, as specified. (Veh. Code, § 22650, subd. (c).)
- 5) Places the burden of establishing the validity of the removal on the storing agency. (Veh. Code, § 22650, subd. (c).)
- 6) Authorizes a peace officer or other traffic enforcer of a local jurisdiction to remove a vehicle in many circumstances, including if it is left unattended, as specified, parked on a highway so as to obstruct traffic or create a hazard, illegally parked, as specified, stopped or parked for more than four hours upon the right-of-way of a freeway and the driver cannot move the vehicle, parked or left standing on a highway for 72 or more consecutive hours in violation of a local ordinance, and others. (Veh. Code, § 22651.)
- 7) Authorizes any state, county or city authority charged with the maintenance of any highway to move any vehicle which is disabled or abandoned or which constitutes an obstruction to traffic from the place where it is located on a highway to the nearest available position on the same highway as may be necessary to keep the highway open or safe for public travel. (Veh. Code, § 22654, subd. (c).)
- 8) Authorizes a city, county, or city and county to adopt an ordinance establishing procedures for the abatement and removal, as public nuisances, of abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, or inoperative vehicles or parts of an inoperative vehicle from private or public property. (Veh. Code, § 22660.)
- 9) Authorizes any peace officer or other employee of the state, county, or city, as specified, who has reasonable grounds to believe that a vehicle has been abandoned, as determined pursuant to an existing statutory procedure, to remove that vehicle from a highway or from public or private property. (Veh. Code, § 22669, subd. (a).)

- 10) Requires the public agency causing the removal of a vehicle to determine, for lien sale purposes, whether its value is under \$500, between \$500 and \$4,000, or over \$4,000. (Veh. Code, § 22670.)
- 11) Specifies that whenever a vehicle has been removed to a garage, the keeper shall have a lien dependent upon possession for his or her compensation for towage and for caring for and keeping safe the vehicle for a period not exceeding 60 days, as specified, and provides that no lien shall attach to any personal property in or on the vehicle, as specified. (Veh. Code, § 22851, subds. (a)(b).)
- 12) Provides that whenever a peace officer or any other employee of an authorized public agency as specified removes, or causes the removal of a vehicle determined to be abandoned and the public agency, or at the request of the public agency, the lienholder determines the estimated value of the vehicle is \$500 or less, the public agency that removed, or caused the removal of vehicle shall cause the disposal of the vehicle, subject to the following requirements:
 - a) Not less than 72 hours before the vehicle is removed, the peace officer or the authorized public employee has securely attached to the vehicle a distinctive notice which states that the vehicle will be removed by the public agency.
 - b) Immediately after removal of the vehicle, the public agency which removed, or caused the removal of, the vehicle shall notify the Stolen Vehicle System of the Department of Justice in Sacramento of the removal.
 - c) The public agency that removed, or caused the removal of, the vehicle or, at the request of the public agency, the lienholder shall obtain a copy of the names and addresses of all persons having an interest in the vehicle, if any, from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), as specified.
 - d) Within 48 hours of the removal, excluding weekends and holidays, the public agency that removed, or caused the removal of, the vehicle or, at the request of the public agency, the lienholder shall send a notice to the registered and legal owners at their addresses of record with the DMV, and to any other person known to have an interest in the vehicle, which must include information about the public agency providing the notice, the location of storage, the authority for removal of the vehicle, the right to a post-storage hearing, and other information, as specified.

- e) A requested hearing shall be conducted within 48 hours of the request, excluding weekends and holidays, as specified.
- f) The public agency employing the person, or utilizing the services of a contractor or franchiser that removed, or caused the removal of, the vehicle and that directed any towing or storage, is responsible for the costs incurred for towing and storage if it is determined in the hearing that reasonable grounds to believe that the vehicle was abandoned are not established.
- g) An authorization for disposal may not be issued by the public agency that removed, or caused the removal of, the vehicle to a lienholder who is storing the vehicle prior to the conclusion of a requested post-storage hearing or any judicial review of that hearing.
- h) If, after 15 days from the notification date, the vehicle remains unclaimed and the towing and storage fees have not been paid, and if no request for a post-storage hearing was requested or a post-storage hearing was not attended, the public agency that removed, or caused the removal of, the vehicle shall provide to the lienholder who is storing the vehicle, on a form approved by the DMV authorization to dispose of the vehicle.
- i) If the vehicle is claimed by the owner or their agent within 15 days of the notice date, the lienholder who is storing the vehicle may collect reasonable fees for services rendered, but may not collect lien sale fees.
- j) Disposal of the vehicle by the lienholder who is storing the vehicle may only be to a licensed dismantler or scrap iron processor, as provided.
- k) If the names and addresses of the registered and legal owners of the vehicle are not available from the records of the DMV, the public agency may issue to the lienholder who stored the vehicle an authorization for disposal at any time after the removal.
- l) A vehicle disposed of pursuant to the above provisions may not be reconstructed or made operable, unless it is a vehicle that qualifies for either horseless carriage license plates or historical vehicle license plates. (Veh. Code, § 22851.3, subds. (a)(1).)

This bill:

- 1) Provides that the Counties of Alameda and Los Angeles may implement a program to dispose of recreational vehicles subject the provisions below.

- 2) Provides that whenever a peace officer or other employee authorized by a public agency to perform this task removes or causes the removal of a recreational vehicle (RV) determined to be abandoned, and the public agency or lienholder determines the estimated value of the RV at \$4,000 or less, the public agency shall cause the disposal of the RV pursuant to the requirements set forth in Section 22851.3 of the Vehicle Code.
- 3) Provides that the notice placed on an RV subject to removal 72 hours prior to its removal shall additionally include a notification that, if the RV is towed, it can be recovered for at least 30 days after the public agency notifies the registered owner of the recreational vehicle, and specifies that the notice shall also include contact information for an individual to learn where their vehicle and other possessions may be recovered.
- 4) Provides that the post-removal notice issued by the removal agency must include, if the vehicle was an RV, a notification that the registered owner has 30 days from the date of the notice to claim the vehicle.
- 5) Provides that if, at the time of removal, the agency performing the removal is unable to collect the information necessary to identify the registered and legal owner of the recreational vehicle, including, but not limited to, the vehicle identification number, the agency shall place and affix at least two copies of the notice required pursuant to this subdivision within close geographic proximity to the removal location.
- 6) Provides that the removal agency is responsible for the costs incurred for towing and storage if it is determined in the hearing that the vehicle was not inoperable or was not a hazard to public health, safety and welfare.
- 7) Provides that if, after 30 days from the notification date, the RV remains unclaimed and the towing and storage fees have not been paid, and if no request for a post-storage hearing was required or a post-storage hearing was not attended, the public agency that removed, or caused the removal of, the RV shall provide to the lienholder who is storing the RV, on a form approved by the DMV, authorization to dispose of it.
- 8) Provides that authorization to dispose of the RV pursuant to the above provision shall include a verification that the RV is inoperable, and specifies that the lienholder may request the public agency to provide the authorization to dispose of the RV.

- 9) Specifies that if the RV is operable, the lienholder may request the public agency to provide the authorization to dispose of the RV only if it was towed due to it posing an environmental or public safety hazard.
- 10) Provides that for the purposes of its provisions, a RV is “inoperable” if it can only be moved by a tow truck.
- 11) Provides that if the RV is claimed by the owner or their agency within 30 days of the notice date, the lienholder who is storing the vehicle may collect reasonable fees for services rendered, but may not collect lien sale fees.
- 12) Provides that each local public agency that is authorized and designated to remove vehicles pursuant to this bill shall report to their governing body, on an annual basis for each notice required to be posted 72 hours prior to the removal of a vehicle in the preceding year, all of the following:
 - a) The number of RVs removed.
 - b) The number of people found in the RV prior to removal.
 - c) The number of RVs that were operable.
 - d) The number of RVs that were inoperable.
- 13) Provides that the provisions of this bill become inoperative on January 1, 2030.

Comments

Under existing law regarding the impoundment of vehicles, public officials who remove a vehicle must transfer it to a garage or tow yard for storage and safekeeping until the owner collects it or a specified period has elapsed during which the vehicle has gone unclaimed. At the time a vehicle is removed by law enforcement or another local governmental entity, that entity is responsible for determining whether that vehicle falls into one of three “estimated value categories: under \$500, between \$500 and \$4,000, or over \$4,000. This valuation is central to the process of disposing of that vehicle. Existing law grants the owner of the garage or tow yard a lien against the vehicle as a means of providing compensation for towing and storing the vehicle for the period of impoundment. After a specified time period has elapsed, depending on the value of the vehicle and whether the vehicle was abandoned or not, the lienholder may satisfy the lien via a “lien sale,” which is essentially a vehicle auction.

Existing law sets forth a specific procedure for vehicles that have been removed by law enforcement after being deemed abandoned, and when the vehicle has been determined to be of “low value” (a valuation of \$500 or less). Under this procedure, law enforcement must attach a notice (“pre-removal notice”) to the vehicle at least 72 hours prior to its removal indicating that the removal will take place. Within 48 hours of removal, either the removing agency or the lienholder must send another notice (“post-removal notice”) to the vehicle’s registered owner at their addresses of record with the DMV, with the following information: contact information for the public agency providing the notice, information regarding where the vehicle is being stored, the legal authority for removal, a statement that the vehicle may be disposed of 15 days from the date of notice, and a notice that the owners have the opportunity for a hearing to determine the validity of the storage if a request is made within 10 days of the notice.

If, after 15 days from the post-removal notification, the vehicle remains unclaimed and the towing and storage fees have not been paid, and no request for post storage hearing was received, the removal agency must provide the lienholder with authorization to dispose of the vehicle. Existing law requires that disposal of the vehicle may only be to a licensed dismantler or scrap iron processor. It is important to note that if the names and addresses of the registered owners of the vehicle are not available from the DMV, the removing agency may immediately authorize the disposal of the vehicle by the lienholder.

According to the Author, it is imperative that this process for disposing of low-value abandoned vehicles be amended to address a growing challenge related to abandoned RVs. In an effort to address this issue, this bill authorizes the Counties of Alameda and Los Angeles to implement a program to effect the disposal of an abandoned RV in accordance with the process outlined above if the RV is valued at less than \$4,000. The bill makes other modifications to that process, including requiring that the pre-removal notice include contact information for the removal agency and a statement that a removed RV can be recovered for at least 30 days, and requiring that the post-removal notice include a statement that the registered owner of an RV has up to 30 days from the date of notice to claim the RV. In addition, the bill states that if, after 30 days from the issuance of the post-removal notification, the RV remains unclaimed and the towing and storage fees have not been paid, and if no request for a poststorage hearing was received or a poststorage hearing was not attended, the removal agency shall provide the lienholder with authorization to dispose of the RV. However, the authorization to dispose the RV must include a verification that the RV is inoperable – if the RV is operable, the removal agency can only authorize disposal if the RV was towed due to an environmental or public safety hazard.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- Unknown, potentially significant costs to the state funded trial court system (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund) to adjudicate petition for a writ of mandates challenging agency decisions to dispose of recreational vehicles under this bill. As a result of making it easier to tow and dispose of recreational vehicles, subject to judicial review, this bill may lead to additional case filings that otherwise would not have been commenced with attendant workload and resource costs to the court.
- Costs pressures (General Funds, local funds) to state and local law enforcement agencies, including the California Highway Patrol, sheriffs, police, University of California Police Department, and more associated with potentially increased appraisals of the value of recreational vehicles for purposes of this bill.
- Unknown, potential workload cost pressures to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to the extent additional lienholders are required to obtain copies of the names and addresses of all persons having an interest in the recreational vehicles from the DMV.

SUPPORT: (Verified 9/4/25)

Office of Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass (source)

California Big City Mayor's Coalition

California Contract Cities Association

California Police Chiefs Association

City and County of San Francisco

City of Bakersfield

City of Norwalk

City of Riverside

City of San Diego

League of California Cities

San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency

OPPOSITION: (Verified 9/4/25)

ACLU California Action
Alliance San Diego
California Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies
California Public Defenders Association
CD11 Coalition for Human Rights
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Debt Free Justice California
Disability Rights California
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund
Housing California
Justice2Jobs Coalition
LA Defensa
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Vehicle Residency Collective
Starting Over Strong
The Bride's Chamber
Venice Justice Committee
Western Center on Law & Poverty

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 70-0, 5/23/25

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Bryan, Chen, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Nguyen, Sanchez, Sharp-Collins, Wicks

Prepared by: Alex Barnett / PUB. S. /
9/8/25 21:16:27

**** END ****