

Date of Hearing: August 5, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 1218 (Arreguín) – As Amended July 1, 2026

Policy Committee: Transportation

Vote: 15 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill authorizes a peace officer or code enforcement officer to immobilize (“boot”) a vehicle for which the registered owner has five or more unpaid citations, or failure to appear notices for illegal dumping, or two or more unpaid citations for illegal dumping in commercial quantities, as specified.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

No state costs.

**COMMENTS:**

Illegal dumping has been a problem in Oakland. An audit report released in April of 2026 by the Oakland Office of the City Auditor, found, among other things, that illegal dumping in Oakland:

was mostly residential in origin, and legal waste removal should be more convenient and affordable to Oaklanders to reduce illegal dumping...multi-family units underused free bulky pickup services. The City can strengthen its enforcement of illegal dumping through legislation to align enforcement of the City’s municipal waste requirements for commercial buildings, and to increase penalties to be consistent with other jurisdictions in the region...improve regional collaboration...311 reporting should be more accessible, and environmental enforcement needs established procedures, interdepartmental coordination, and performance management to support administrative enforcement.

The audit report made 17 recommendations to reduce illegal dumping. Not among those recommendations was restricting the ability of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to renew a vehicle registration if the registered owner has outstanding illegal dumping fines. Yet that is what earlier versions of this bill proposed. Subsequently, the bill was amended in the Assembly Committee on Transportation to, instead, allow a peace officer or code enforcement officer to boot a vehicle for which the registered owner has unpaid citations for illegal dumping, as described in the summary, above.

The amendments have removed all state costs. Both the American Civil Liberties Union California Action (ACLU) and the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bary Area opposed previous versions of the bill. Neither has submitted a letter indicating a

change in their positions, and the arguments put forth by the ACLU, for example, seem to still hold:

A better fiscally prudent solution to the illegal dumping issue...is for the state to be more strategic in targeted investments in waste disposal in the most affected communities. Another fiscally sound solution...would be for the city of Oakland to implement the recommendations made in the April 2026 auditors' report...such as fully utilizing Waste Management dumpsters provided to the city...increasing outreach and education on how to legally dump since legal waste disposal appears to be inaccessible, either due to cost or inconvenience to many Oakland residents...[and] numerous economically viable solutions to prevent illegal dumping that is not economically punitive to Oakland residents.

The bill is supported by the City of Oakland, Alameda County and the League of California Cities, among others.

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