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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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Bill No: SB 731  
Author: Archuleta (D)  
Amended: 7/3/25 in Assembly  
Vote: 21

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SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: 14-0, 3/25/25  
AYES: Cortese, Strickland, Archuleta, Arreguín, Blakespear, Cervantes,  
Gonzalez, Grayson, Limón, Menjivar, Richardson, Seyarto, Umberg, Valladares  
NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SENATE FLOOR: 38-0, 5/29/25  
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear,  
Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez,  
Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello,  
Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas,  
Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener  
NO VOTE RECORDED: Limón, Reyes

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-0 See last page for vote

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**SUBJECT:** Trash receptacles and storage containers: reflective markings

**SOURCE:** Author

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**DIGEST:** This bill exempts trash receptacles and storage containers with any reflectors added before January 1, 2025, from the requirement to install reflectors made of high-performance retroreflective sheeting of a specified length and quantity. This bill also specifies required tape options for high-performance retroreflective sheeting for a storage container transported by truck and trailer.

*Assembly Amendments* of 7/3/25 add red, white, or alternating red and white tape as one of the required tape options for high-performance retroreflective sheeting for a storage container transported by truck and trailer.

**ANALYSIS:**

## Existing law:

- 1) Requires a manufacturer who sells or rents a trash receptacle or storage container that is on a roadway or the curb of a roadway in order to be emptied or picked up to mark the trash receptacle or storage container with a reflector on each side, beginning January 1, 2025. (Health and Safety Code (Health & Saf. Code) § 26275.)
- 2) Requires an owner, other than the manufacturer, of a trash receptacle or storage container that is placed on a roadway or the curb of a roadway in order to be emptied or picked up to mark the trash receptacle or storage container with a reflector on each side, beginning January 1, 2026. (Health & Saf. Code § 26275.)
- 3) Requires the above reflector markings to include at least eight strips of reflective tape, each a minimum of two inches wide and two feet long. One tape strip shall be applied horizontally to each of the top and bottom portions of the four corners where the vertical walls of the trash receptacle or storage container meet, and be oriented so that approximately 12 inches of each tape strip is visible on each of the two outside walls to which it is applied. The reflective tape shall be fluorescent yellow and be made of high-performance retroreflective sheeting of American Society for Testing and Materials D4956-13 Type V, VIII, IX, or XI. (Health & Saf. Code § 26275.)
- 4) Requires an owner of a trash receptacle or storage container that is on a roadway or the curb of a roadway in order to be emptied or picked up to clearly label the trash receptacle or storage container with the owner's name and current telephone number.
- 5) Provides that a manufacturer or owner, other than a local government entity, who violates the above provisions is guilty of an infraction punishable by a fine, as follows:
  - a) \$100 for the first infraction if not corrected within 14 days of notice;
  - b) \$500 for the second infraction if not corrected within 14 days of notice; and,
  - c) \$1,000 for the third and any subsequent infractions if not corrected within 14 days of notice. (Health & Saf. Code § 26275.)

- 6) Establishes the Accident Prevention and Road Safety Fund in the State Treasury and provides that all fines for violations of the reflector law are to be deposited in the fund. Such funds are available upon appropriation by the Legislature. (Health & Saf. Code § 26275.)

This bill:

- 1) Exempts from the minimum high performance reflective taping requirements trash receptacles or storage containers with any reflectors that were applied to the trash receptacle or storage container before January 1, 2025.
- 2) Adds red, white, or alternating red and white tape as one of the required tape options for high-performance retroreflective sheeting for a storage container transported by truck and trailer.

## Comments

- 1) *Purpose of this bill.* According to the author, “In 2022 Senator Archuleta passed SB 1111, the Rick Best Safety Act, named after Rodrick “Rick” Best, who worked as a legislative staffer and lobbyist in Sacramento for years. Sadly, Rick passed away after a traffic accident where he collided with an unmarked trash dumpster in the roadway. SB 1111 required a person who sells, or provides for compensation, a trash receptacle or storage container designed to be placed on the side of the road or curb to mark the bin with a reflector on each side by January 1st 2026. A follow up bill, SB 806 (Archuleta, Chapter 722, Statutes of 2023) added specific requirements for the category, location, and size of reflective markings on trash and storage containers and provided owners with a 14-day right to cure. Some actors in the industry, who were already voluntarily placing reflective markings on their containers prior to any bills, are struggling to update their entire fleets in order to meet the requirements of SB 806. This bill would allow them to comply with the reflective marking requirements going forward with any new purchases of trash or storage containers without being unnecessarily penalized for existing containers.”
- 2) *Need for bin reflectors.* Starting January 1, 2025, manufacturers of trash receptacles and storage containers that are longer than three feet in length and taller than four feet in height are required to mark the containers with high performance reflective tape on each side. Owners have an additional year to add reflectors to their bins, with their marking requirement taking effect on January

1, 2026. The addition of reflective tape to containers and receptacles is intended to increase their nighttime visibility, thus improving the safety of local streets and roadways. The absence of nighttime safety markings on large trash receptacles that are placed in the street for pickup can be a safety hazard for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians who might not see the receptacles.

- 3) *PODS' reflectors.* PODS, a supporter of SB 731, is a moving and storage company that rents storage containers for customers to store their belongings in their driveway, or package belongings for moves. PODS' storage containers have steel-frames and impact-resistant wall paneling and range from the "small container" at 8' x 7' x 8' to the "large container" at 16' x 8' x 8'. PODS containers are generally placed in a driveway, but can be placed on the street if the customer receives a permit from the local jurisdiction. According to PODS, the company has nearly 300,000 containers in their nationwide fleet which are marked with red and white-silver engineering grade reflective tape. The company asserts that all PODS containers had reflectors installed before January 1, 2025.
- 4) *Less reflectivity.* Existing law allows manufactures and owners to utilize existing reflectivity tape if the tape was applied to the trash receptacle or storage container before July 1, 2023, and if the reflective tape is made of high-performance retroreflective sheeting. This bill allows manufacturers of trash receptacles and storage containers to utilize existing reflectors if they were applied before January 1, 2025, regardless of whether the reflectors are high-performance or not.

Under this bill, any new containers put into use on or after January 1, 2026, including PODS, are required to comply with the specific statutory reflective tape requirements established under SB 806. However, existing containers would not be required to comply with the specific statutory reflective tape requirements established under SB 806. Currently, PODS uses tape made of American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Type I reflective sheeting to add reflectivity to their containers. This level of reflector provides a lower level of reflectivity, and thus potentially lower visibility, than what would be required under current law beginning in 2026.

- 5) *Types of reflection.* SB 806 outlined a range of high-performance retroreflective sheeting types that owners and manufacturers must use to comply with the law. Specifically, owners and manufacturers must use reflective tape that is fluorescent yellow and made of high-performance retroreflective sheeting of

American Society for Testing and Materials D4956-13 Type V, VIII, IX, or XI. These four Types are made of super-high-intensity retroreflective materials. Alternatively, Type I sheeting (currently used by PODS) has the lowest performance of all Types. It is more commonly used for signs where brightness during nighttime is less critical, such as “No Parking” signs.

### **Related/Prior Legislation**

SB 806 (Archuleta, Chapter 722, Statutes of 2023) – Authorized the Attorney General, or the district attorney or city attorney in the location where a violation is observed, to enforce the law requiring certain markings to be placed on trash receptacles, including reflectors and certain contact information. This bill also established a fund within the State Treasury where all collected fines are to be deposited.

SB 1111 (Archuleta, Chapter 244, Statutes of 2022) – Requires manufacturers and owners of trash receptacles and storage containers of specified dimensions be marked with a reflector on each side and contact information, respectively and as specified.

SB 741 (Archuleta of 2021) – Would have required the seller or provider of a roadside trash and storage container larger than three feet and taller than four feet to mark the container with a reflector on each side and imposed a civil penalty for failure to do so. This bill died in the Senate Transportation Committee.

SB 1353 (Archuleta of 2020) – Would have imposed substantially the same requirement of reflectors on trash receptacles as SB 741. This bill died in the Senate Transportation Committee.

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

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee: Minor state costs, if any.

**SUPPORT:** (Verified 8/28/25)

California Waste Haulers Council  
Pods Enterprises, LLC  
Republic Services  
Resource Recovery Coalition of California  
Wm (waste Management)

**OPPOSITION:** (Verified 8/28/25)

None received

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8/28/25 16:50:15

**\*\*\*\* END \*\*\*\***