

Legislation and Regulations Update

Holly Helsing
BAR Executive Office
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Bureau of Automotive Repair

Important Legislative Dates

- **July 18, 2025-August 18, 2024** – Summer Recess
- **September 5, 2025** – Last day to amend bills on the Floor
- **September 12, 2025** – Last day for each house to pass bills
- **October 12, 2025** – Last day for the Governor to sign or veto bills

Disclaimer: Though every effort is made to ensure information provided on the following slides is current, given the nature of the legislative process, hearing dates or bill summaries shown here may not reflect the latest updates. Please be sure to check www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov for the most current bill information.

2025 Legislative Bills

- AB 987 (Sharp-Collins): Vehicle Storage and Towing
- AB 1368 (Wallis): Smog Check Exemption
- SB 615 (Allen): Vehicle Traction Batteries
- SB 712 (Grove): Smog Check Exemption for Collector Vehicles
- SB 774 (Ashby): Citation and Remedial Training Programs
- SB 861 (Senate BPED Committee): Business and Professions Code Technical Cleanup

AB 987 (Sharp-Collins): Vehicle Storage and Towing

- Status: Passed by the Assembly on May 19, 2025. Re-referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee with the recommendation to add it to the Consent Calendar; hearing set for August 18, 2025.
- Summary: Existing law requires that storage and towing fees be reasonable and enumerates a list of fees that are presumptively unreasonable. This bill would expand the list of presumptively unreasonable fees in Vehicle Code sections 10652.5 and 22524.5 to include, among other things, storage fees charged for state holidays that exceed the posted standard daily storage rate and towing fees charged when the owner is directed by a law enforcement officer to remove their vehicle at the scene of a state or local emergency.

AB 1368 (Wallis): Smog Check Exemption

- Status: April 1, 2025 set for first hearing; canceled at the request of the author.
- Summary: Existing law exempts specified vehicles from being inspected biennially upon renewal of registration, including, among others, all motor vehicles manufactured prior to the 1976 model year. This bill would extend the above exemption from vehicles that were manufactured prior to the 1976 model year, to any motor vehicle that is 30 or more model years old.

SB 615 (Allen): Vehicle Traction Batteries

- Status: Passed by the Senate on May 29, 2025. Re-referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee on July 15, 2025.
- Summary: This bill would:
 - Require a battery supplier to be responsible for, among other duties, ensuring the responsible end-of-life management of a vehicle traction battery if it is removed from a vehicle that is still in service or is offered or returned to its battery supplier.
 - Impose related duties on a secondary user, including, among other duties, ensuring the responsible end-of-life management for a vehicle traction battery or returning a vehicle traction battery to the battery supplier, and reporting information regarding the sale, transfer, or receipt of a vehicle traction battery or module to the Department of Toxic Substances Control.

SB 712 (Grove): Smog Check Exemption for Collector Vehicles

- Status: Passed by the Senate on June 4, 2025. Re-referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee on July 15, 2025.
- Summary: This bill would, commencing on January 1, 2027, fully exempt from the Smog Check requirement a vehicle that meets the following:
 - Was manufactured prior to the 1981 model year
 - Has been assigned a special identification plate indicating that it is a historical vehicle
 - Is insured as a collector motor vehicle, as shall be required by regulation of the Bureau

Beginning January 1, 2028, this exemption would expand by one model year, every year, for 5 years.

SB 774 (Ashby): Citation and Remedial Training Programs

- Status: Passed by the Senate on May 29, 2025. Re-referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee on July 9, 2025.
- Summary: This bill would extend the effective date of the citation and remedial training programs for automotive repair dealers from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2028.

SB 861 (Senate BPED Committee): Business and Professions Code Technical Cleanup

- Status: Passed by the Senate on May 23, 2025. Passed by the Assembly Appropriations Committee and ordered to the Consent Calendar on July 16, 2025.
- Summary: This bill would update cross-references to the Business and Professions Code that replaced provisions for licensure of lamp and brake adjusting stations and adjusters with provisions for licensure of vehicle safety systems inspection stations and technicians.

Regulations Adopted in 2025

- **Technical Cleanup to Update Terminology: “Bureau-accepted Educational Certifications” (Section 100)**
 - Adopted and effective on March 11, 2025
- **Omnibus Clean Up of Related Regulations**
 - Adopted on February 6, 2025; effective on April 1, 2025
- **Omnibus Cleanup to Update Code Sections (Section 100)**
 - Adopted and effective on May 29, 2025
- **Tear Down Disclosure Requirements for Automotive Repair Dealers**
 - Adopted on May 29, 2025; effective on July 1, 2025
- **Smog Check Readiness Monitor Limits**
 - Adopted on July 9, 2025; effective on October 1, 2025

Pending Regulation Packages

- Mobile and Referral Automotive Repair Dealers
- Storage Fees Charged by Automotive Repair Dealers
- Change of Address Requirements
- Biometric Device Updates

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Mobile and Referral Automotive Repair Dealers

- Purpose:
 - Clarify definition of “mobile automotive repair.”
 - Add a geographical radius for when automotive repair is to be considered mobile in relation to where the repair is performed.
 - Add that a person or entity is considered to be an ARD if that person or entity collects compensation for automotive repair services that are referred or sublet to another person or entity to perform.
- Status: Final package submitted to OAL for approval on July 9, 2025.
- Next Steps: OAL approval and file with the Secretary of State for adoption. Expected effective date: October 1, 2025.

Storage Fees Charged by Automotive Repair Dealers (1 of 2)

- Purpose: Bring together existing laws governing storage from the Business and Professions, Civil, and Vehicle Codes under one unified regulatory section. The proposed regulations do the following:
 - Establish that fees charged for the storage of a motor vehicle shall be reasonable.
 - Determine when storage fees may be charged and where a vehicle may be stored.
 - Require that an ARD provide an itemized invoice for storage fees when charged.
 - An ARD that provides storage services shall post their current daily storage fee rate in an area frequented by customers and provide the Bureau with their daily storage rate annually when renewing their registration.
 - An ARD that provides towing services shall display the Towing and Storage Fees Access Notice in an area of the business facility that is in plain view of the public and have copies available to the public.

Storage Fees Charged by Automotive Repair Dealers (2 of 2)

- Create a search tool on BAR's website showing average and median daily storage rates for a given locale based on the maximum daily storage rates reported by ARDs.
- Define a "locale" as one of four geographic radiuses around each reporting ARD that is sufficient to identify average and median storage rates.
- History: Public workshops held on April 25, July 18, October 17, 2024, and January 30, 2025.
- Status: Pending review by DCA Legal.
- Next Steps: Submit initial regulation package to Business, Consumer Services, and Housing (BCSH) Agency for review and approval to file with OAL and begin 45-day public comment period.

Change of Address Requirements

- Purpose:
 - Remove inconsistencies in the current regulations by clarifying timeframes for reporting material changes. Specifically, update the timeframe for notice of a change of address to 14 days and notice of other material changes to 30 days throughout the regulations.
 - Remove duplicative text and make minor grammatical changes for consistency and clarification.
- Status: Pending review by DCA Legal.
- Next Steps: Submit package to BCSH Agency for review and approval to file with OAL and begin the 45-day public comment period.

Biometric Device Updates

- Purpose:
 - Update the Smog Check Manual and the Vehicle Safety System Inspection Manual to read “Fujitsu palm vein scanner sensor model FAT13FPS01 or newer...”
- Status: Pending review by DCA Legal.
- Next Steps: Submit package to BCSH Agency for review and approval to file with OAL and begin the 45-day public comment period.

Contact Information

Holly Helsing

Holly.Helsing@dca.ca.gov

www.bar.ca.gov



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