

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 7, 2015

SENATE BILL

No. 773

Introduced by Senator Allen

February 27, 2015

An act to add Section 4024 to the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicle registration.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 773, as amended, Allen. Vehicles: registration fraud: study.

Existing law prohibits a person from driving, moving, or leaving standing upon a highway, or in an offstreet public parking facility, any motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole or pipe dolly, or logging dolly, unless it is registered and the appropriate fees have been paid, except as specified. Existing law makes it a felony for a person who, with the intent to prejudice, damage, or defraud, alters, forges, ~~counterfeit~~, *counterfeits*, or falsifies a registration card or who utters, publishes, passes, or attempts to pass, as true and genuine, a false, altered, forged, or counterfeited registration card knowing it to be false, altered, forged, or counterfeited.

This bill would request the University of California to conduct a study on motor vehicle registration fraud and failure to register a motor vehicle, and would require the study to include specified information, including; quantification of the magnitude of the problem, the costs to the state and local governments in lost revenues, and recommended strategies for increasing compliance with registration requirements. The bill would require the Department of Motor ~~Vehicles~~, *Vehicles and* the Department of the California Highway ~~Patrol~~, and other state agencies, as requested by the University of California, to fully cooperate with the ~~University of California in conducting the study~~ *Patrol to provide*

specified information to the University of California researchers who are conducting the study. The bill would request the University of California to post a report of the study on its Internet Web site no later than January 1, 2017.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (1) Motor vehicle registration fraud and failure to register a
4 motor vehicle ~~is~~ *are* both illegal and fundamentally unfair to the
5 vast majority of Californians who comply with registration
6 requirements. ~~It robs~~ *These crimes rob* the state and local
7 governments of millions of dollars of revenues needed for vital
8 purposes, such as transportation projects, supporting the
9 Department of the California Highway Patrol, deterring auto theft,
10 enforcing laws prohibiting driving under the influence of alcohol
11 or drugs, removing abandoned vehicles, and many other socially
12 desirable programs.

13 (2) Motor vehicle registration fraud and failure to register a
14 motor vehicle ~~also has~~ *have* significant public health consequences
15 and ~~contributes~~ *contribute* disproportionately to motor vehicle
16 emissions because many individuals committing registration fraud
17 have gross emitting vehicles and are deliberately circumventing
18 the inspection and maintenance program.

19 (3) Motor vehicle registration fraud and failure to register a
20 motor vehicle also significantly ~~increases~~ *increase* insurance costs
21 for law-abiding citizens.

22 (4) It is in the public interest to have motor vehicle owners
23 comply with existing registration laws.

24 (b) Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to encourage
25 motorists to register their vehicles in accordance with existing law.

26 SEC. 2. Section 4024 is added to the Vehicle Code, to read:

27 4024. (a) The University of California is requested to conduct
28 a study on motor vehicle registration fraud and failure to register
29 a motor vehicle. The study shall include all of the following:

30 (1) Quantification of the magnitude of the problem.

1 (2) The strategies being used by motorists to commit motor
2 vehicle registration fraud.

3 (3) The reasons for the behaviors of motorists who commit fraud
4 ~~in registrations~~ *registration* of, or *who* fail to register ~~their,~~ *their*
5 motor vehicles.

6 (4) The costs to the state and local governments in lost revenues.

7 (5) Increases in air pollution.

8 (6) Other costs; and consequences of these behaviors.

9 (7) Recommended strategies for increasing compliance with
10 registration requirements.

11 ~~(b) The Department of Motor Vehicles, the Department of the~~
12 ~~California Highway Patrol, and other state agencies, as requested~~
13 ~~by the University of California, shall fully cooperate with the~~
14 ~~University of California in conducting the study.~~

15 *(b) The Department of Motor Vehicles shall share its existing*
16 *database of vehicle registration records with the University of*
17 *California researchers who are conducting the study. The*
18 *Department of the California Highway Patrol shall share*
19 *information on their efforts to combat registration fraud, including*
20 *the CHEATERS program, with the University of California*
21 *researchers who are conducting the study.*

22 (c) The University of California is requested to post a report of
23 the study on its Internet Web site no later than January 1, 2017.