

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 23, 2025

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 9, 2025

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 25, 2025

## SENATE BILL

**No. 692**

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**Introduced by Senator Arreguín**  
**(Principal coauthor: Senator Richardson)**  
*(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Mark González)*

February 21, 2025

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An act to amend Sections 22650, ~~22660~~, ~~22661~~, ~~22662~~, ~~22661~~, and 22851.3 of the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 692, as amended, Arreguín. Vehicles: homelessness.

Existing law makes it unlawful for a peace officer or an unauthorized person to remove an unattended vehicle from a highway, except as provided. Under existing law, the removal of a vehicle is a seizure, subject to the limits set forth in jurisprudence for the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution. Existing law 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 vehicles from private or public property. Existing law requires that any ordinance for the removal of abandoned vehicles contain certain provisions, including a provision exempting vehicles under certain circumstances, and a provision providing no less than a 10-day notice of intention to abate and remove the vehicle or part thereof as a public nuisance, unless the property owner and the owner of the vehicle sign releases. Existing law also exempts from the 10-day notice prior to removal provision, a vehicle

meeting specified requirements, including being valued at less than \$200 and being determined to be a public nuisance, if the property owner has signed a release.

~~This bill would additionally authorize a city, county, or city and county to adopt an ordinance for the abatement and removal of vehicles formerly used as shelter by a person. The bill would require an ordinance establishing procedures for the removal of abandoned vehicles to contain a provision making the ordinance applicable to public agencies operating certain vehicle buyback programs, as specified. The bill would also specifically authorize a local government to perform emergency summary abatement of vehicles creating imminent health and safety hazards. The bill would modify the exemption from prior 10-day notice of intention to abate and remove a vehicle to no longer require that both the vehicle be determined to be a public nuisance and that the property owner sign a release.~~

~~Existing law authorizes vehicles or parts thereof to be disposed of by removal to, among other places, a scrapyard or automobile dismantler's yard.~~

~~The bill would authorize specified vehicles to be scrapped and dismantled in place and disposed of at a suitable site operated by a local authority.~~

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. Section 22650 of the Vehicle Code is amended  
2     to read:  
3     22650. (a) It is unlawful for a peace officer or an unauthorized  
4     person to remove an unattended vehicle from a highway to a garage  
5     or to any other place, except as provided in this code.  
6     (b) Any removal of a vehicle is a seizure under the Fourth  
7     Amendment of the Constitution of the United States and Section  
8     13 of Article I of the California Constitution, and shall be  
9     reasonable and subject to the limits set forth in Fourth Amendment  
10    jurisprudence. A removal pursuant to an authority, including, but  
11    not limited to, as provided in Section 22651, that is based on  
12    community caretaking, is only reasonable if the removal is  
13    necessary to achieve the community caretaking need, such as

1 ensuring the safe flow of traffic or protecting property from theft  
2 or vandalism.

3 (c) Those law enforcement and other agencies identified in this  
4 chapter as having the authority to remove vehicles shall also have  
5 the authority to provide hearings in compliance with the provisions  
6 of Section 22852. During these hearings the storing agency shall  
7 have the burden of establishing the authority for, and the validity  
8 of, the removal.

9 (d) This section does not prevent a review or other action as  
10 may be permitted by the laws of this state by a court of competent  
11 jurisdiction.

12 (e) This article does not prevent a local government from  
13 performing emergency summary abatement of ~~vehicles, as defined~~  
14 ~~in Section 670~~, *vehicles* that are creating imminent health and  
15 safety hazards, pursuant to state law or local ordinance.

16 ~~SEC. 2. Section 22660 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:~~

17 ~~22660. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a city,~~  
18 ~~county, or city and county may adopt an ordinance establishing~~  
19 ~~procedures for the abatement and removal, as public nuisances, of~~  
20 ~~abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, or inoperative vehicles, or~~  
21 ~~vehicles, as defined in Section 670, or parts thereof from private~~  
22 ~~or public property, and for the recovery, pursuant to Section 25845~~  
23 ~~or 38773.5 of the Government Code, or assumption by the local~~  
24 ~~authority, of costs of administration and the removal.~~

25 ~~SEC. 3.~~

26 ~~SEC. 2. Section 22661 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:~~

27 ~~22661. Any ordinance establishing procedures for the removal~~  
28 ~~of abandoned or inoperable vehicles shall contain all of the~~  
29 ~~following provisions:~~

30 (a) The requirement that notice be given to the Department of  
31 Motor Vehicles within five days after the date of removal,  
32 identifying the vehicle or part thereof and any evidence of  
33 registration available, including, but not limited to, the registration  
34 card, certificates of ownership, or license plates.

35 (b) Making the ordinance inapplicable to (1) a vehicle or part  
36 thereof that is completely enclosed within a building in a lawful  
37 manner where it is not visible from the street or other public or  
38 private property or (2) a vehicle or part thereof that is stored or  
39 parked in a lawful manner on private property in connection with  
40 the business of a licensed dismantler, licensed vehicle dealer, or

1 a junkyard. This exception shall not, however, authorize the  
2 maintenance of a public or private nuisance as defined under  
3 provisions of law other than this chapter.

4 ~~(e) Making the ordinance applicable to public agencies operating~~  
5 ~~a vehicle buyback program for the removal of vehicles, as defined~~  
6 ~~in Section 670, including, but not limited to, vehicles that are being~~  
7 ~~used, or have been used, as shelter, and wishing to dispose of those~~  
8 ~~vehicles from public or private property, irrespective of the~~  
9 ~~vehicle's operability, registration status, or condition.~~

10 ~~(d)~~

11 (c) (1) The requirement that not less than a 10-day notice of  
12 intention to abate and remove the vehicle or part thereof as a public  
13 nuisance be issued, unless the property owner and the owner of  
14 the vehicle have signed releases authorizing removal and waiving  
15 further interest in the vehicle or part thereof.

16 (2) However, prior notice of intention is not required for removal  
17 of a vehicle or part thereof that is inoperable due to the absence  
18 of a motor, transmission, or wheels and incapable of being towed,  
19 and is valued at less than two hundred dollars (\$200) by a person  
20 specified in Section 22855, if either of the following criteria is  
21 met:

22 (A) The property owner has signed a release authorizing removal  
23 and waiving their interest in the vehicle or part thereof.

24 (B) The vehicle or part is determined by the local agency to be  
25 a public nuisance presenting an imminent threat to public health  
26 or safety.

27 (3) Prior to final disposition pursuant to Section 22662 of a  
28 vehicle or part for which evidence of registration was recovered  
29 pursuant to subdivision (a), the local agency shall provide notice  
30 to the registered and legal owners of intent to dispose of the vehicle  
31 or part, and if the vehicle or part is not claimed and removed within  
32 12 days after the notice is mailed, from a location specified in  
33 Section 22662, or if the owner signs a release waiving the waiting  
34 period, final disposition may proceed. A local agency or contractor  
35 thereof is not liable for damage caused to a vehicle or part thereof  
36 by removal ~~pursuant to~~ *consistent with* this section.

37 (4) Paragraph (2) applies only as follows:

38 (A) To inoperable vehicles located upon a parcel that is zoned  
39 for agricultural use.

1 (B) To inoperable vehicles located upon a parcel that is not  
2 improved with a residential structure containing one or more  
3 dwelling units.

4 ~~(e)~~

5 (d) The 10-day notice of intention to abate and remove a vehicle  
6 or part thereof, when required by this section, shall contain a  
7 statement of the hearing rights of the owner of the property on  
8 which the vehicle is located and of the owner of the vehicle. The  
9 statement shall include notice to the property owner that they may  
10 appear in person at a hearing or may submit a sworn written  
11 statement denying responsibility for the presence of the vehicle  
12 on the land, with their reasons for such denial, in lieu of appearing.  
13 The notice of intention to abate shall be mailed, by registered or  
14 certified mail, to the owner of the land as shown on the last  
15 equalized assessment roll and to the last registered and legal owners  
16 of record unless the vehicle is in such condition that identification  
17 numbers are not available to determine ownership.

18 ~~(f)~~

19 (e) The requirement that a public hearing be held before the  
20 governing body of the city, county, or city and county, or any other  
21 board, commissioner, or official of the city, county, or city and  
22 county as designated by the governing body, upon request for such  
23 a hearing by the owner of the vehicle or the owner of the land on  
24 which the vehicle is located. This request shall be made to the  
25 appropriate public body, agency, or officer within 10 days after  
26 the mailing of notice of intention to abate and remove the vehicle  
27 or at the time of signing a release pursuant to subdivision~~(d)~~. (c).  
28 If the owner of the land on which the vehicle is located submits a  
29 sworn written statement denying responsibility for the presence  
30 of the vehicle on their land within that time period, this statement  
31 shall be construed as a request for hearing that does not require  
32 the presence of the owner submitting the request. If the request is  
33 not received within that period, the appropriate public body,  
34 agency, or officer shall have the authority to remove the vehicle.

35 ~~(g)~~

36 (f) The requirement that after a vehicle has been removed, it  
37 shall not be reconstructed or made operable, unless it is a vehicle  
38 that qualifies for either horseless carriage license plates or historical  
39 vehicle license plates, pursuant to Section 5004, in which case the  
40 vehicle may be reconstructed or made operable.

1     ~~(h)~~

2     (g) A provision authorizing the owner of the land on which the  
3 vehicle is located to appear in person at the hearing or present a  
4 sworn written statement denying responsibility for the presence  
5 of the vehicle on the land, with their reasons for the denial. If it is  
6 determined at the hearing that the vehicle was placed on the land  
7 without the consent of the landowner and that they have not  
8 subsequently acquiesced to its presence, then the local authority  
9 shall not assess costs of administration or removal of the vehicle  
10 against the property upon which the vehicle is located or otherwise  
11 attempt to collect those costs from the owner.

12     ~~(i) A provision specifying that, notwithstanding any other~~  
13 ~~provision of law, emergency summary abatement of vehicles~~  
14 ~~creating imminent health and safety hazards shall be permissible~~  
15 ~~pursuant to procedures specified in all applicable state laws or~~  
16 ~~local ordinances.~~

17     ~~SEC. 4. Section 22662 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:~~

18     ~~22662. (a) Vehicles or parts thereof may be disposed of by~~  
19 ~~removal to a scrapyard, automobile dismantler's yard, or any~~  
20 ~~suitable site operated by a local authority for processing as scrap;~~  
21 ~~or other final disposition consistent with subdivision (c) of Section~~  
22 ~~22661.~~

23     ~~(b) A local authority may operate such a disposal site when its~~  
24 ~~governing body determines that commercial channels of disposition~~  
25 ~~are not available or are inadequate, and it may make final~~  
26 ~~disposition of such vehicles or parts, or the local agency may~~  
27 ~~transfer such vehicle or parts to another, provided such disposal~~  
28 ~~shall be only as scrap. Vehicles described in subdivision (c) of~~  
29 ~~Section 22661 may be scrapped and dismantled in place and~~  
30 ~~disposed of at a suitable site operated by a local authority.~~

31     ~~SEC. 5.~~

32     ~~SEC. 3. Section 22851.3 of the Vehicle Code is amended to~~  
33 ~~read:~~

34     ~~22851.3. (a) Whenever a peace officer, as defined in Chapter~~  
35 ~~4.5 (commencing with Section 830) of Title 3 of Part 2 of the Penal~~  
36 ~~Code, or any other employee of a public agency authorized~~  
37 ~~pursuant to Section 22669, removes, or causes the removal of, a~~  
38 ~~vehicle pursuant to Section 22669 and the public agency or, at the~~  
39 ~~request of the public agency, the lienholder determines the~~  
40 ~~estimated value of the vehicle is five hundred dollars (\$500) or~~

1 less, the public agency that removed, or caused the removal of,  
2 the vehicle shall cause the disposal of the vehicle under this section,  
3 subject to all of the following requirements:

4 (1) Not less than 72 hours before the vehicle is removed, the  
5 peace officer or the authorized public employee has securely  
6 attached to the vehicle a distinctive notice which states that the  
7 vehicle will be removed by the public agency. This subdivision  
8 does not apply to abandoned vehicles removed pursuant to  
9 subdivision (d) of Section 22669 which are determined by the  
10 public agency to have an estimated value of three hundred dollars  
11 (\$300) or less.

12 (2) Immediately after removal of the vehicle, the public agency  
13 which removed, or caused the removal of, the vehicle shall notify  
14 the Stolen Vehicle System of the Department of Justice in  
15 Sacramento of the removal.

16 (3) The public agency that removed, or caused the removal of,  
17 the vehicle or, at the request of the public agency, the lienholder  
18 shall obtain a copy of the names and addresses of all persons having  
19 an interest in the vehicle, if any, from the Department of Motor  
20 Vehicles either directly or by use of the California Law  
21 Enforcement Telecommunications System. This paragraph does  
22 not require the public agency or lienholder to obtain a copy of the  
23 actual record on file at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

24 (4) Within 48 hours of the removal, excluding weekends and  
25 holidays, the public agency that removed, or caused the removal  
26 of, the vehicle or, at the request of the public agency, the lienholder  
27 shall send a notice to the registered and legal owners at their  
28 addresses of record with the Department of Motor Vehicles, and  
29 to any other person known to have an interest in the vehicle. A  
30 notice sent by the public agency shall be sent by certified or  
31 first-class mail, and a notice sent by the lienholder shall be sent  
32 by certified mail. The notice shall include all of the following  
33 information:

34 (A) The name, address, and telephone number of the public  
35 agency providing the notice.

36 (B) The location of the place of storage and description of the  
37 vehicle which shall include, if available, the vehicle make, license  
38 plate number, vehicle identification number, and mileage.

39 (C) The authority and purpose for the removal of the vehicle.

1 (D) A statement that the vehicle may be disposed of 15 days  
2 from the date of the notice.

3 (E) A statement that the owners and interested persons, or their  
4 agents, have the opportunity for a poststorage hearing before the  
5 public agency that removed, or caused the removal of, the vehicle  
6 to determine the validity of the storage if a request for a hearing  
7 is made in person, in writing, or by telephone within 10 days from  
8 the date of notice; that, if the owner or interested person, or their  
9 agent, disagrees with the decision of the public agency, the decision  
10 may be reviewed pursuant to Section 11523 of the Government  
11 Code; and that during the time of the initial hearing, or during the  
12 time the decision is being reviewed pursuant to Section 11523 of  
13 the Government Code, the vehicle in question may not be disposed  
14 of.

15 (5) (A) A requested hearing shall be conducted within 48 hours  
16 of the request, excluding weekends and holidays. The public  
17 agency that removed the vehicle may authorize its own officers to  
18 conduct the hearing if the hearing officer is not the same person  
19 who directed the storage of the vehicle.

20 (B) Failure of either the registered or legal owner or interested  
21 person, or their agent, to request or to attend a scheduled hearing  
22 shall satisfy the poststorage validity hearing requirement of this  
23 section.

24 (6) The public agency employing the person, or utilizing the  
25 services of a contractor or franchiser pursuant to subdivision (b)  
26 of Section 22669, that removed, or caused the removal of, the  
27 vehicle and that directed any towing or storage, is responsible for  
28 the costs incurred for towing and storage if it is determined in the  
29 hearing that reasonable grounds to believe that the vehicle was  
30 abandoned are not established.

31 (7) An authorization for disposal may not be issued by the public  
32 agency that removed, or caused the removal of, the vehicle to a  
33 lienholder who is storing the vehicle prior to the conclusion of a  
34 requested poststorage hearing or any judicial review of that hearing.

35 (8) If, after 15 days from the notification date, the vehicle  
36 remains unclaimed and the towing and storage fees have not been  
37 paid, and if no request for a poststorage hearing was requested or  
38 a poststorage hearing was not attended, the public agency that  
39 removed, or caused the removal of, the vehicle shall provide to  
40 the lienholder who is storing the vehicle, on a form approved by



1 the Department of Motor Vehicles, authorization to dispose of the  
2 vehicle. The lienholder may request the public agency to provide  
3 the authorization to dispose of the vehicle.

4 (9) If the vehicle is claimed by the owner or their agent within  
5 15 days of the notice date, the lienholder who is storing the vehicle  
6 may collect reasonable fees for services rendered, but may not  
7 collect lien sale fees as provided in Section 22851.12.

8 (10) Disposal of the vehicle by the lienholder who is storing the  
9 vehicle may only be to a licensed dismantler or scrap iron  
10 processor. A copy of the public agency's authorization for disposal  
11 shall be forwarded to the licensed dismantler within five days of  
12 disposal to a licensed dismantler. A copy of the public agency's  
13 authorization for disposal shall be retained by the lienholder who  
14 stored the vehicle for a period of 90 days if the vehicle is disposed  
15 of to a scrap iron processor.

16 (11) If the names and addresses of the registered and legal  
17 owners of the vehicle are not available from the records of the  
18 Department of Motor Vehicles, either directly or by use of the  
19 California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System, the  
20 public agency may issue to the lienholder who stored the vehicle  
21 an authorization for disposal at any time after the removal.

22 The lienholder may request the public agency to issue an  
23 authorization for disposal after the lienholder ascertains that the  
24 names and addresses of the registered and legal owners of the  
25 vehicle are not available from the records of the Department of  
26 Motor Vehicles either directly or by use of the California Law  
27 Enforcement Telecommunications System.

28 (12) A vehicle disposed of pursuant to this section may not be  
29 reconstructed or made operable, unless it is a vehicle that qualifies  
30 for either horseless carriage license plates or historical vehicle  
31 license plates, pursuant to Section 5004, in which case the vehicle  
32 may be reconstructed or made operable.

33 (b) The requirements in subdivision (a) shall be waived if the  
34 public agency meets either of the following conditions:

35 (1) Obtains a release signed by the owner of the vehicle  
36 assigning their interest in the vehicle to the public agency for  
37 purposes of disposition.

38 (2) Determines that the vehicle poses a public nuisance, has  
39 posted a 15-day public notice to the vehicle specifying that the  
40 vehicle is subject to disposal if not removed, and allows for a

- 1 hearing pursuant to paragraphs (5) to (8), inclusive, of subdivision
- 2 (a).

O