

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 9, 2012
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 13, 2012
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1708

Introduced by Assembly Member Gatto

February 15, 2012

An act to amend Section 515 of the Insurance Code, and to amend Sections 4462 and 16028 of the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1708, as amended, Gatto. Vehicles: electronic verification of registration and insurance.

~~Existing~~

(1) *Existing* law requires every driver and every owner of a motor vehicle to be able to establish financial responsibility, and, at all times, carry in the vehicle evidence of a form of financial responsibility, which may be obtained by a law enforcement officer from the electronic reporting system established by the Department of Motor Vehicles. Existing law requires, upon the demand of a peace officer, that evidence of registration and proof of financial responsibility be provided by a person driving a motor vehicle.

Existing law requires a driver who is issued a notice to appear for any alleged violation of the Vehicle Code or the driver of a motor vehicle involved in an accident to furnish written evidence of financial responsibility. Existing law requires an insurer issuing policies of automobile liability insurance or motor vehicle liability insurance, upon the request of its insured or the Department of Motor Vehicles, to promptly issue written verification as to the existence of that coverage.

This bill would ~~require~~ *authorize* an insurer issuing policies of automobile liability insurance or motor vehicle insurance to issue, upon the request of the insured; *and to the extent available, electronic verification as to the existence of the coverage to a mobile electronic device, as defined, and would allow a person to provide evidence of financial responsibility, under the circumstances described above, through the use of a mobile electronic device. The bill would also allow a person to provide electronic verification of evidence of registration using a mobile electronic device to a peace officer.*

The bill would require, when a person provides evidence of financial responsibility using a mobile electronic device to a peace officer or clerk of the court, the peace officer or clerk of the court to only view the evidence of financial responsibility and would prohibit them from viewing any other content on the mobile electronic device. The bill would also require, whenever a person presents a mobile electronic device pursuant to the above-described provisions, the person to assume all liability for any damage to the mobile electronic device.

By expanding the duties of local public officials and expanding the scope of existing crimes, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(2) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that with regard to certain mandates no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

With regard to any other mandates, this bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs so mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

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

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 515 of the Insurance Code is amended
- 2 to read:
- 3 515. (a) (1) Notwithstanding any other ~~provision~~ of law, an
- 4 insurer issuing policies of automobile liability insurance or motor
- 5 vehicle liability insurance shall, upon request of either the named

1 insured or the Department of Motor Vehicles, promptly issue to
2 that person or the department written verification as to the existence
3 of that coverage, ~~and issue, upon the request of the insured,~~
4 ~~verification as to the existence of that coverage, to a mobile~~
5 ~~electronic device.~~

6 *(2) Upon the request of the insured, an insurer may issue the*
7 *verification as to the existence of that coverage in an electronic*
8 *format to a mobile electronic device to the extent available. This*
9 *section does not require an insurer to provide the verification of*
10 *coverage in an electronic format in real time.*

11 (b) For purposes of this section, “mobile electronic device” has
12 the same meaning as defined in subdivision (f) of Section 16028
13 of the Vehicle Code.

14 SEC. 2. Section 4462 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:

15 4462. (a) The driver of a motor vehicle shall present the
16 registration or identification card or other evidence of registration
17 or provide verification of evidence of registration using a mobile
18 electronic device, as defined in subdivision (f) of Section 16028,
19 of any or all vehicles under his or her immediate control for
20 examination upon demand of any peace officer.

21 (b) A person shall not display upon a vehicle, or present to any
22 peace officer, any registration card, identification card, temporary
23 receipt, license plate, device issued pursuant to Section 4853, or
24 permit not issued for that vehicle or not otherwise lawfully used
25 thereon under this code.

26 *(c) For the purposes of this section, when a person provides*
27 *evidence of financial responsibility using a mobile electronic device*
28 *to a peace officer or clerk of the court, the peace officer or clerk*
29 *of the court shall only view the evidence of financial responsibility*
30 *and is prohibited from viewing any other content on the mobile*
31 *electronic device.*

32 *(d) If a person presents a mobile electronic device pursuant to*
33 *this section, that person assumes all liability for any damage to*
34 *the mobile electronic device during its use for purposes of this*
35 *section.*

36 SEC. 3. Section 16028 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:

37 16028. (a) Upon the demand of a peace officer pursuant to
38 subdivision (b) or upon the demand of a peace officer or traffic
39 collision investigator pursuant to subdivision (c), every person
40 who drives a motor vehicle upon a highway shall provide evidence

1 of financial responsibility for the vehicle that is in effect at the
2 time the demand is made. The evidence of financial responsibility
3 may be provided using a mobile electronic device. However, a
4 peace officer shall not stop a vehicle for the sole purpose of
5 determining whether the vehicle is being driven in violation of this
6 subdivision.

7 (b) If a notice to appear is issued for any alleged violation of
8 this code, except a violation specified in Chapter 9 (commencing
9 with Section 22500) of Division 11 or any local ordinance adopted
10 pursuant to that chapter, the cited driver shall furnish written
11 evidence of financial responsibility or *may provide electronic*
12 verification of evidence of financial responsibility using a mobile
13 electronic device upon request of the peace officer issuing the
14 citation. The peace officer shall request and write the driver's
15 evidence of financial responsibility on the notice to appear, except
16 when the peace officer is unable to write the driver's evidence of
17 financial responsibility on the notice to appear due to an emergency
18 that requires his or her presence elsewhere. If the cited driver fails
19 to provide evidence of financial responsibility at the time the notice
20 to appear is issued, the peace officer may issue the driver a notice
21 to appear for violation of subdivision (a). The notice to appear for
22 violation of subdivision (a) shall be written on the same citation
23 form as the original violation.

24 (c) If a peace officer, or a regularly employed and salaried
25 employee of a city or county who has been trained as a traffic
26 collision investigator, is summoned to the scene of an accident
27 described in Section 16000, the driver of ~~any~~ a motor vehicle that
28 is in any manner involved in the accident shall furnish written
29 evidence of financial responsibility or *may provide electronic*
30 verification of evidence of financial responsibility using a mobile
31 electronic device upon the request of the peace officer or traffic
32 collision investigator. If the driver fails to provide evidence of
33 financial responsibility when requested, the peace officer may
34 issue the driver a notice to appear for violation of this subdivision.
35 A traffic collision investigator may cause a notice to appear to be
36 issued for a violation of this subdivision, upon review of that
37 citation by a peace officer.

38 (d) (1) If, at the time a notice to appear for a violation of
39 subdivision (a) is issued, the person is driving a motor vehicle
40 owned or leased by the driver's employer, and the vehicle is being

1 driven with the permission of the employer, this section shall apply
2 to the employer rather than the driver. In that case, a notice to
3 appear shall be issued to the employer rather than the driver, and
4 the driver may sign the notice on behalf of the employer.

5 (2) The driver shall notify the employer of the receipt of the
6 notice issued pursuant to paragraph (1) not later than five days
7 after receipt.

8 (e) A person issued a notice to appear for a violation of
9 subdivision (a) may personally appear before the clerk of the court,
10 as designated in the notice to appear, and provide written evidence
11 of financial responsibility or provide verification of evidence of
12 financial responsibility using a mobile electronic device in a form
13 consistent with Section 16020, showing that the driver was in
14 compliance with that section at the time the notice to appear for
15 violating subdivision (a) was issued. In lieu of the personal
16 appearance, the person may submit by mail to the court written
17 evidence of having had financial responsibility at the time the
18 notice to appear was issued. Upon receipt by the clerk of that
19 written evidence of financial responsibility or verification of
20 evidence of financial responsibility using a mobile electronic device
21 in a form consistent with Section 16020, further proceedings on
22 the notice to appear for the violation of subdivision (a) shall be
23 dismissed.

24 (f) For purposes of this section, “mobile electronic device”
25 means a ~~small, hand-held~~ *portable* computing and communication
26 device that has a display screen with touch input or a miniature
27 keyboard.

28 (g) *For the purposes of this section, when a person provides*
29 *evidence of financial responsibility using a mobile electronic device*
30 *to a peace officer or clerk of the court, the peace officer or clerk*
31 *of the court shall only view the evidence of financial responsibility*
32 *and is prohibited from viewing any other content on the mobile*
33 *electronic device.*

34 (h) *Whenever a person presents a mobile electronic device*
35 *pursuant to this section, that person assumes all liability for any*
36 *damage to the mobile electronic device.*

37 *SEC. 4. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to*
38 *Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution for certain*
39 *costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district*
40 *because, in that regard, this act creates a new crime or infraction,*

1 *eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime*
2 *or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the*
3 *Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the*
4 *meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California*
5 *Constitution.*

6 *However, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that*
7 *this act contains other costs mandated by the state, reimbursement*
8 *to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made*
9 *pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division*
10 *4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.*

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