

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2078

Introduced by Assembly Member Brown

February 20, 2014

An act to amend, repeal, and add Section 14602.6 of the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2078, as introduced, Brown. Vehicles: impoundment and sale.

Existing law authorizes a peace officer who determines that a person was driving a vehicle while his or her driving privilege was suspended or revoked, driving in violation of a driver's license restriction, or driving a vehicle without ever having been issued a driver's license, to cause the removal and seizure of the vehicle. Existing law requires a 30-day impoundment period for these seized vehicles, subject to exceptions allowing earlier release.

This bill would, until January 1, 2018, prohibit the impoundment of a vehicle on the basis that the driver has not been issued a driver's license if the driver establishes that he or she has applied for, but not yet received, a driver's license pursuant to a specified law.

Existing law requires the impounding agency, within 2 working days of impoundment, to send a notice of impoundment to the legal owner of the vehicle. Under existing law, failure to notify the legal owner within 2 working days prohibits the impounding agency from charging for more than 15 days' impoundment when the legal owner redeems the impounded vehicle.

This bill would expand these provisions to require that a registered owner of the vehicle receive a notice of impoundment.

Existing law authorizes the imposition of a lien on a vehicle to compensate a person who is legally entitled for compensation for towing or storage of the vehicle, and provides procedures for the sale of a vehicle at a lien sale.

This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature to prohibit a lien sale of a vehicle subject to a 30-day impoundment under the above-described provisions prior to the conclusion of the 30-day period.

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

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 14602.6 of the Vehicle Code is amended
 2 to read:
 3 14602.6. (a) (1) Whenever a peace officer determines that a
 4 person was driving a vehicle while his or her driving privilege was
 5 suspended or revoked, driving a vehicle while his or her driving
 6 privilege is restricted pursuant to Section 13352 or 23575 and the
 7 vehicle is not equipped with a functioning, certified interlock
 8 device, or, *except as provided in subdivision (k)*, driving a vehicle
 9 without ever having been issued a driver’s license, the peace officer
 10 may either immediately arrest that person and cause the removal
 11 and seizure of that vehicle or, if the vehicle is involved in a traffic
 12 collision, cause the removal and seizure of the vehicle without the
 13 necessity of arresting the person in accordance with Chapter 10
 14 (commencing with Section 22650) of Division 11. A vehicle so
 15 impounded shall be impounded for 30 days.
 16 (2) The impounding agency, within two working days of
 17 impoundment, shall send a notice by certified mail, return receipt
 18 requested, to the legal owner *and registered owner* of the vehicle,
 19 at the address obtained from the department, informing the owner
 20 *or owners* that the vehicle has been impounded. Failure to notify
 21 the legal owner *and registered owner* within two working days
 22 shall prohibit the impounding agency from charging for more than
 23 15 days’ impoundment when the legal owner *or registered owner*
 24 redeems the impounded vehicle. The impounding agency shall
 25 maintain a published telephone number that provides information
 26 24 hours a day regarding the impoundment of vehicles and the
 27 rights of a registered owner to request a hearing. The law
 28 enforcement agency shall be open to issue a release to the registered

1 owner or legal owner, or the agent of either, whenever the agency
2 is open to serve the public for regular, nonemergency business.

3 (b) The registered and legal owner of a vehicle that is removed
4 and seized under subdivision (a) or their agents shall be provided
5 the opportunity for a storage hearing to determine the validity of,
6 or consider any mitigating circumstances attendant to, the storage,
7 in accordance with Section 22852.

8 (c) Any period in which a vehicle is subjected to storage under
9 this section shall be included as part of the period of impoundment
10 ordered by the court under subdivision (a) of Section 14602.5.

11 (d) (1) An impounding agency shall release a vehicle to the
12 registered owner or his or her agent prior to the end of 30 days'
13 impoundment under any of the following circumstances:

14 (A) When the vehicle is a stolen vehicle.

15 (B) When the vehicle is subject to bailment and is driven by an
16 unlicensed employee of a business establishment, including a
17 parking service or repair garage.

18 (C) When the license of the driver was suspended or revoked
19 for an offense other than those included in Article 2 (commencing
20 with Section 13200) of Chapter 2 of Division 6 or Article 3
21 (commencing with Section 13350) of Chapter 2 of Division 6.

22 (D) When the vehicle was seized under this section for an
23 offense that does not authorize the seizure of the vehicle.

24 (E) When the driver reinstates his or her driver's license or
25 acquires a driver's license and proper insurance.

26 (2) No vehicle shall be released pursuant to this subdivision
27 without presentation of the registered owner's or agent's currently
28 valid driver's license to operate the vehicle and proof of current
29 vehicle registration, or upon order of a court.

30 (e) The registered owner or his or her agent is responsible for
31 all towing and storage charges related to the impoundment, and
32 any administrative charges authorized under Section 22850.5.

33 (f) A vehicle removed and seized under subdivision (a) shall be
34 released to the legal owner of the vehicle or the legal owner's agent
35 prior to the end of 30 days' impoundment if all of the following
36 conditions are met:

37 (1) The legal owner is a motor vehicle dealer, bank, credit union,
38 acceptance corporation, or other licensed financial institution
39 legally operating in this state or is another person, not the registered
40 owner, holding a security interest in the vehicle.

1 (2) (A) The legal owner or the legal owner’s agent pays all
2 towing and storage fees related to the seizure of the vehicle. No
3 lien sale processing fees shall be charged to the legal owner who
4 redeems the vehicle prior to the 15th day of impoundment. Neither
5 the impounding authority nor any person having possession of the
6 vehicle shall collect from the legal owner of the type specified in
7 paragraph (1), or the legal owner’s agent any administrative charges
8 imposed pursuant to Section 22850.5 unless the legal owner
9 voluntarily requested a poststorage hearing.

10 (B) A person operating or in charge of a storage facility where
11 vehicles are stored pursuant to this section shall accept a valid
12 bank credit card or cash for payment of towing, storage, and related
13 fees by a legal or registered owner or the owner’s agent claiming
14 the vehicle. A credit card shall be in the name of the person
15 presenting the card. “Credit card” means “credit card” as defined
16 in subdivision (a) of Section 1747.02 of the Civil Code, except,
17 for the purposes of this section, credit card does not include a credit
18 card issued by a retail seller.

19 (C) A person operating or in charge of a storage facility
20 described in subparagraph (B) who violates subparagraph (B) shall
21 be civilly liable to the owner of the vehicle or to the person who
22 tendered the fees for four times the amount of the towing, storage,
23 and related fees, but not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500).

24 (D) A person operating or in charge of a storage facility
25 described in subparagraph (B) shall have sufficient funds on the
26 premises of the primary storage facility during normal business
27 hours to accommodate, and make change in, a reasonable monetary
28 transaction.

29 (E) Credit charges for towing and storage services shall comply
30 with Section 1748.1 of the Civil Code. Law enforcement agencies
31 may include the costs of providing for payment by credit when
32 making agreements with towing companies on rates.

33 (3) The legal owner or the legal owner’s agent presents a copy
34 of the assignment, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 7500.1
35 of the Business and Professions Code; a release from the one
36 responsible governmental agency, only if required by the agency;
37 a government-issued photographic identification card; and any
38 one of the following, as determined by the legal owner or the legal
39 owner’s agent: a certificate of repossession for the vehicle, a
40 security agreement for the vehicle, or title, whether paper or

1 electronic, showing proof of legal ownership for the vehicle. Any
2 documents presented may be originals, photocopies, or facsimile
3 copies, or may be transmitted electronically. The law enforcement
4 agency, impounding agency, or any other governmental agency,
5 or any person acting on behalf of those agencies, shall not require
6 any documents to be notarized. The law enforcement agency,
7 impounding agency, or any person acting on behalf of those
8 agencies may require the agent of the legal owner to produce a
9 photocopy or facsimile copy of its repossession agency license or
10 registration issued pursuant to Chapter 11 (commencing with
11 Section 7500) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code,
12 or to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the law enforcement
13 agency, impounding agency, or any person acting on behalf of
14 those agencies, that the agent is exempt from licensure pursuant
15 to Section 7500.2 or 7500.3 of the Business and Professions Code.

16 No administrative costs authorized under subdivision (a) of
17 Section 22850.5 shall be charged to the legal owner of the type
18 specified in paragraph (1), who redeems the vehicle unless the
19 legal owner voluntarily requests a poststorage hearing. No city,
20 county, city and county, or state agency shall require a legal owner
21 or a legal owner's agent to request a poststorage hearing as a
22 requirement for release of the vehicle to the legal owner or the
23 legal owner's agent. The law enforcement agency, impounding
24 agency, or other governmental agency, or any person acting on
25 behalf of those agencies, shall not require any documents other
26 than those specified in this paragraph. The law enforcement agency,
27 impounding agency, or other governmental agency, or any person
28 acting on behalf of those agencies, shall not require any documents
29 to be notarized. The legal owner or the legal owner's agent shall
30 be given a copy of any documents he or she is required to sign,
31 except for a vehicle evidentiary hold logbook. The law enforcement
32 agency, impounding agency, or any person acting on behalf of
33 those agencies, or any person in possession of the vehicle, may
34 photocopy and retain the copies of any documents presented by
35 the legal owner or legal owner's agent.

36 (4) A failure by a storage facility to comply with any applicable
37 conditions set forth in this subdivision shall not affect the right of
38 the legal owner or the legal owner's agent to retrieve the vehicle,
39 provided all conditions required of the legal owner or legal owner's
40 agent under this subdivision are satisfied.

1 (g) (1) A legal owner or the legal owner’s agent that obtains
 2 release of the vehicle pursuant to subdivision (f) shall not release
 3 the vehicle to the registered owner of the vehicle, or the person
 4 who was listed as the registered owner when the vehicle was
 5 impounded, or any agents of the registered owner, unless the
 6 registered owner is a rental car agency, until after the termination
 7 of the 30-day impoundment period.

8 (2) The legal owner or the legal owner’s agent shall not
 9 relinquish the vehicle to the registered owner or the person who
 10 was listed as the registered owner when the vehicle was impounded
 11 until the registered owner or that owner’s agent presents his or her
 12 valid driver’s license or valid temporary driver’s license to the
 13 legal owner or the legal owner’s agent. The legal owner or the
 14 legal owner’s agent or the person in possession of the vehicle shall
 15 make every reasonable effort to ensure that the license presented
 16 is valid and possession of the vehicle will not be given to the driver
 17 who was involved in the original impoundment proceeding until
 18 the expiration of the impoundment period.

19 (3) Prior to relinquishing the vehicle, the legal owner may
 20 require the registered owner to pay all towing and storage charges
 21 related to the impoundment and any administrative charges
 22 authorized under Section 22850.5 that were incurred by the legal
 23 owner in connection with obtaining custody of the vehicle.

24 (4) Any legal owner who knowingly releases or causes the
 25 release of a vehicle to a registered owner or the person in
 26 possession of the vehicle at the time of the impoundment or any
 27 agent of the registered owner in violation of this subdivision shall
 28 be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine in the amount of
 29 two thousand dollars (\$2,000) in addition to any other penalties
 30 established by law.

31 (5) The legal owner, registered owner, or person in possession
 32 of the vehicle shall not change or attempt to change the name of
 33 the legal owner or the registered owner on the records of the
 34 department until the vehicle is released from the impoundment.

35 (h) (1) A vehicle removed and seized under subdivision (a)
 36 shall be released to a rental car agency prior to the end of 30 days’
 37 impoundment if the agency is either the legal owner or registered
 38 owner of the vehicle and the agency pays all towing and storage
 39 fees related to the seizure of the vehicle.

1 (2) The owner of a rental vehicle that was seized under this
2 section may continue to rent the vehicle upon recovery of the
3 vehicle. However, the rental car agency may not rent another
4 vehicle to the driver of the vehicle that was seized until 30 days
5 after the date that the vehicle was seized.

6 (3) The rental car agency may require the person to whom the
7 vehicle was rented to pay all towing and storage charges related
8 to the impoundment and any administrative charges authorized
9 under Section 22850.5 that were incurred by the rental car agency
10 in connection with obtaining custody of the vehicle.

11 (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the
12 registered owner and not the legal owner shall remain responsible
13 for any towing and storage charges related to the impoundment,
14 any administrative charges authorized under Section 22850.5, and
15 any parking fines, penalties, and administrative fees incurred by
16 the registered owner.

17 (j) The law enforcement agency and the impounding agency,
18 including any storage facility acting on behalf of the law
19 enforcement agency or impounding agency, shall comply with this
20 section and shall not be liable to the registered owner for the
21 improper release of the vehicle to the legal owner or the legal
22 owner's agent provided the release complies with the provisions
23 of this section. The legal owner shall indemnify and hold harmless
24 a storage facility from any claims arising out of the release of the
25 vehicle to the legal owner or the legal owner's agent and from any
26 damage to the vehicle after its release, including the reasonable
27 costs associated with defending any such claims. A law
28 enforcement agency shall not refuse to issue a release to a legal
29 owner or the agent of a legal owner on the grounds that it
30 previously issued a release.

31 (k) *A vehicle is not subject to impoundment on the basis that*
32 *the driver has not been issued a driver's license if the driver*
33 *establishes that he or she has applied for, but not yet received, a*
34 *driver's license pursuant to Section 12801.6.*

35 (l) *This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2018,*
36 *and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that*
37 *is enacted before January 1, 2018, deletes or extends that date.*

38 SEC. 2. Section 14602.6 is added to the Vehicle Code, to read:

39 14602.6. (a) (1) If a peace officer determines that a person
40 was driving a vehicle while his or her driving privilege was

1 suspended or revoked, driving a vehicle while his or her driving
2 privilege is restricted pursuant to Section 13352 or 23575 and the
3 vehicle is not equipped with a functioning, certified interlock
4 device, or driving a vehicle without ever having been issued a
5 driver's license, the peace officer may either immediately arrest
6 that person and cause the removal and seizure of that vehicle or,
7 if the vehicle is involved in a traffic collision, cause the removal
8 and seizure of the vehicle without the necessity of arresting the
9 person in accordance with Chapter 10 (commencing with Section
10 22650) of Division 11. A vehicle so impounded shall be impounded
11 for 30 days.

12 (2) The impounding agency, within two working days of
13 impoundment, shall send a notice by certified mail, return receipt
14 requested, to the legal owner and registered owner of the vehicle,
15 at the address obtained from the department, informing the owner
16 or owners that the vehicle has been impounded. Failure to notify
17 the legal owner and registered owner within two working days
18 shall prohibit the impounding agency from charging for more than
19 15 days' impoundment when the legal owner or registered owner
20 redeems the impounded vehicle. The impounding agency shall
21 maintain a published telephone number that provides information
22 24 hours a day regarding the impoundment of vehicles and the
23 rights of a registered owner to request a hearing. The law
24 enforcement agency shall be open to issue a release to the registered
25 owner or legal owner, or the agent of either, whenever the agency
26 is open to serve the public for regular, nonemergency business.

27 (b) The registered and legal owner of a vehicle that is removed
28 and seized under subdivision (a) or their agents shall be provided
29 the opportunity for a storage hearing to determine the validity of,
30 or consider any mitigating circumstances attendant to, the storage,
31 in accordance with Section 22852.

32 (c) Any period in which a vehicle is subjected to storage under
33 this section shall be included as part of the period of impoundment
34 ordered by the court under subdivision (a) of Section 14602.5.

35 (d) (1) An impounding agency shall release a vehicle to the
36 registered owner or his or her agent prior to the end of 30 days'
37 impoundment under any of the following circumstances:

38 (A) When the vehicle is a stolen vehicle.

1 (B) When the vehicle is subject to bailment and is driven by an
2 unlicensed employee of a business establishment, including a
3 parking service or repair garage.

4 (C) When the license of the driver was suspended or revoked
5 for an offense other than those included in Article 2 (commencing
6 with Section 13200) of Chapter 2 of Division 6 or Article 3
7 (commencing with Section 13350) of Chapter 2 of Division 6.

8 (D) When the vehicle was seized under this section for an
9 offense that does not authorize the seizure of the vehicle.

10 (E) When the driver reinstates his or her driver's license or
11 acquires a driver's license and proper insurance.

12 (2) A vehicle shall not be released pursuant to this subdivision
13 without presentation of the registered owner's or agent's currently
14 valid driver's license to operate the vehicle and proof of current
15 vehicle registration, or upon order of a court.

16 (e) The registered owner or his or her agent is responsible for
17 all towing and storage charges related to the impoundment, and
18 any administrative charges authorized under Section 22850.5.

19 (f) A vehicle removed and seized under subdivision (a) shall be
20 released to the legal owner of the vehicle or the legal owner's agent
21 prior to the end of 30 days' impoundment if all of the following
22 conditions are met:

23 (1) The legal owner is a motor vehicle dealer, bank, credit union,
24 acceptance corporation, or other licensed financial institution
25 legally operating in this state or is another person, not the registered
26 owner, holding a security interest in the vehicle.

27 (2) (A) The legal owner or the legal owner's agent pays all
28 towing and storage fees related to the seizure of the vehicle. No
29 lien sale processing fees shall be charged to the legal owner who
30 redeems the vehicle prior to the 15th day of impoundment. Neither
31 the impounding authority nor any person having possession of the
32 vehicle shall collect from the legal owner of the type specified in
33 paragraph (1), or the legal owner's agent any administrative charges
34 imposed pursuant to Section 22850.5 unless the legal owner
35 voluntarily requested a poststorage hearing.

36 (B) A person operating or in charge of a storage facility where
37 vehicles are stored pursuant to this section shall accept a valid
38 bank credit card or cash for payment of towing, storage, and related
39 fees by a legal or registered owner or the owner's agent claiming
40 the vehicle. A credit card shall be in the name of the person

1 presenting the card. “Credit card” means “credit card” as defined
2 in subdivision (a) of Section 1747.02 of the Civil Code, except,
3 for the purposes of this section, credit card does not include a credit
4 card issued by a retail seller.

5 (C) A person operating or in charge of a storage facility
6 described in subparagraph (B) who violates subparagraph (B) shall
7 be civilly liable to the owner of the vehicle or to the person who
8 tendered the fees for four times the amount of the towing, storage,
9 and related fees, but not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500).

10 (D) A person operating or in charge of a storage facility
11 described in subparagraph (B) shall have sufficient funds on the
12 premises of the primary storage facility during normal business
13 hours to accommodate, and make change in, a reasonable monetary
14 transaction.

15 (E) Credit charges for towing and storage services shall comply
16 with Section 1748.1 of the Civil Code. Law enforcement agencies
17 may include the costs of providing for payment by credit when
18 making agreements with towing companies on rates.

19 (3) The legal owner or the legal owner’s agent presents a copy
20 of the assignment, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 7500.1
21 of the Business and Professions Code; a release from the one
22 responsible governmental agency, only if required by the agency;
23 a government-issued photographic identification card; and any
24 one of the following, as determined by the legal owner or the legal
25 owner’s agent: a certificate of repossession for the vehicle, a
26 security agreement for the vehicle, or title, whether paper or
27 electronic, showing proof of legal ownership for the vehicle. Any
28 documents presented may be originals, photocopies, or facsimile
29 copies, or may be transmitted electronically. The law enforcement
30 agency, impounding agency, or any other governmental agency,
31 or any person acting on behalf of those agencies, shall not require
32 any documents to be notarized. The law enforcement agency,
33 impounding agency, or any person acting on behalf of those
34 agencies may require the agent of the legal owner to produce a
35 photocopy or facsimile copy of its repossession agency license or
36 registration issued pursuant to Chapter 11 (commencing with
37 Section 7500) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code,
38 or to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the law enforcement
39 agency, impounding agency, or any person acting on behalf of

1 those agencies, that the agent is exempt from licensure pursuant
2 to Section 7500.2 or 7500.3 of the Business and Professions Code.

3 Administrative costs authorized under subdivision (a) of Section
4 22850.5 shall not be charged to the legal owner of the type
5 specified in paragraph (1), who redeems the vehicle unless the
6 legal owner voluntarily requests a poststorage hearing. A city,
7 county, city and county, or state agency shall not require a legal
8 owner or a legal owner's agent to request a poststorage hearing as
9 a requirement for release of the vehicle to the legal owner or the
10 legal owner's agent. The law enforcement agency, impounding
11 agency, or other governmental agency, or any person acting on
12 behalf of those agencies, shall not require any documents other
13 than those specified in this paragraph. The law enforcement agency,
14 impounding agency, or other governmental agency, or any person
15 acting on behalf of those agencies, shall not require any documents
16 to be notarized. The legal owner or the legal owner's agent shall
17 be given a copy of any documents he or she is required to sign,
18 except for a vehicle evidentiary hold logbook. The law enforcement
19 agency, impounding agency, or any person acting on behalf of
20 those agencies, or any person in possession of the vehicle, may
21 photocopy and retain the copies of any documents presented by
22 the legal owner or legal owner's agent.

23 (4) A failure by a storage facility to comply with any applicable
24 conditions set forth in this subdivision shall not affect the right of
25 the legal owner or the legal owner's agent to retrieve the vehicle,
26 provided all conditions required of the legal owner or legal owner's
27 agent under this subdivision are satisfied.

28 (g) (1) A legal owner or the legal owner's agent that obtains
29 release of the vehicle pursuant to subdivision (f) shall not release
30 the vehicle to the registered owner of the vehicle, or the person
31 who was listed as the registered owner when the vehicle was
32 impounded, or any agents of the registered owner, unless the
33 registered owner is a rental car agency, until after the termination
34 of the 30-day impoundment period.

35 (2) The legal owner or the legal owner's agent shall not
36 relinquish the vehicle to the registered owner or the person who
37 was listed as the registered owner when the vehicle was impounded
38 until the registered owner or that owner's agent presents his or her
39 valid driver's license or valid temporary driver's license to the
40 legal owner or the legal owner's agent. The legal owner or the

1 legal owner's agent or the person in possession of the vehicle shall
2 make every reasonable effort to ensure that the license presented
3 is valid and possession of the vehicle will not be given to the driver
4 who was involved in the original impoundment proceeding until
5 the expiration of the impoundment period.

6 (3) Prior to relinquishing the vehicle, the legal owner may
7 require the registered owner to pay all towing and storage charges
8 related to the impoundment and any administrative charges
9 authorized under Section 22850.5 that were incurred by the legal
10 owner in connection with obtaining custody of the vehicle.

11 (4) Any legal owner who knowingly releases or causes the
12 release of a vehicle to a registered owner or the person in
13 possession of the vehicle at the time of the impoundment or any
14 agent of the registered owner in violation of this subdivision shall
15 be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine in the amount of
16 two thousand dollars (\$2,000) in addition to any other penalties
17 established by law.

18 (5) The legal owner, registered owner, or person in possession
19 of the vehicle shall not change or attempt to change the name of
20 the legal owner or the registered owner on the records of the
21 department until the vehicle is released from the impoundment.

22 (h) (1) A vehicle removed and seized under subdivision (a)
23 shall be released to a rental car agency prior to the end of 30 days'
24 impoundment if the agency is either the legal owner or registered
25 owner of the vehicle and the agency pays all towing and storage
26 fees related to the seizure of the vehicle.

27 (2) The owner of a rental vehicle that was seized under this
28 section may continue to rent the vehicle upon recovery of the
29 vehicle. However, the rental car agency may not rent another
30 vehicle to the driver of the vehicle that was seized until 30 days
31 after the date that the vehicle was seized.

32 (3) The rental car agency may require the person to whom the
33 vehicle was rented to pay all towing and storage charges related
34 to the impoundment and any administrative charges authorized
35 under Section 22850.5 that were incurred by the rental car agency
36 in connection with obtaining custody of the vehicle.

37 (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the
38 registered owner and not the legal owner shall remain responsible
39 for any towing and storage charges related to the impoundment,
40 any administrative charges authorized under Section 22850.5, and

1 any parking fines, penalties, and administrative fees incurred by
2 the registered owner.

3 (j) The law enforcement agency and the impounding agency,
4 including any storage facility acting on behalf of the law
5 enforcement agency or impounding agency, shall comply with this
6 section and shall not be liable to the registered owner for the
7 improper release of the vehicle to the legal owner or the legal
8 owner's agent provided the release complies with the provisions
9 of this section. The legal owner shall indemnify and hold harmless
10 a storage facility from any claims arising out of the release of the
11 vehicle to the legal owner or the legal owner's agent and from any
12 damage to the vehicle after its release, including the reasonable
13 costs associated with defending any such claims. A law
14 enforcement agency shall not refuse to issue a release to a legal
15 owner or the agent of a legal owner on the grounds that it
16 previously issued a release.

17 SEC. 3. It is the intent of the Legislature to prohibit a lien sale
18 of a vehicle subject to a 30-day impoundment pursuant to Section
19 14602.6 of the Vehicle Code prior to the conclusion of the 30-day
20 period.