

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 24, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 162**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Rodriguez**  
*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chávez, Gonzalez, and Lackey)*  
*(Coauthor: Senator Anderson)*

January 21, 2015

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An act to add and repeal Section 21651.1 of the Vehicle Code, relating to state highways.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 162, as amended, Rodriguez. State highways: wrong-way driving. Existing law requires a vehicle to be driven on the right half of a roadway, subject to specified exceptions. On a highway that has been divided into 2 or more roadways by means of intermittent barriers or by means of specified kinds of dividing sections, existing law makes it unlawful to drive a vehicle on that highway, except to the right of the intermittent barrier or dividing section that separates 2 or more opposing lanes of traffic.

This bill would require the Department of Transportation, in consultation with the Department of ~~Motor Vehicles~~ *the California Highway Patrol*, to ~~initiate a 12-month study~~ *update a 1989 report* on wrong-way driving on state highways *to account for technological advancements and innovation, to include a review of methods studied or implemented by other jurisdictions and entities to prevent wrong-way drivers from entering state highways, and to provide the report to specified legislative committees on or before January 1, 2017.* The bill would require the ~~study report to incorporate findings and recommendations to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of~~

~~the Legislation, including solutions to reduce the number of instances of wrong-way driving and a proposed schedule for implementation of those solutions~~ *identify any additional treatments and technologies with the potential to reduce the number of instances of wrong-way driving on state highways and to include a plan to incorporate those treatments and technologies into the Department of Transportation’s wrong way monitoring and mitigation program.* The bill would make related findings and declarations.

The bill would provide that its provisions are repealed as of January 1, 2021.

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. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:

3 (a) Wrong-way driving on state highways kills or injures  
4 ~~hundreds of numerous~~ Californians each year.

5 (b) Accidents caused by wrong-way driving on highways are  
6 more likely to result in fatal ~~and~~ *or* serious injuries than other types  
7 of accidents.

8 (c) ~~From 2003 to 2012, drivers traveling the wrong way caused~~  
9 ~~436 fatal collisions and 5,006 injury collisions in California, as~~  
10 ~~reported by~~ *According to the Department of the California Highway*  
11 *Patrol, from 2001 to 2014, inclusive, a total of 193 fatal collisions*  
12 *and 685 injury collisions occurred on state highways in this state*  
13 *as a result of wrong-way driving.*

14 (d) Innovative countermeasures are needed to prevent drivers  
15 from entering the highway the wrong way.

16 SEC. 2. Section 21651.1 is added to the Vehicle Code, to read:

17 21651.1. (a) The Department of Transportation, in consultation  
18 with the Department of ~~Motor Vehicles~~ *the California Highway*  
19 *Patrol, shall initiate a 12-month study on wrong-way driving on*  
20 *state highways and shall provide, on or before January 1, 2017,*  
21 ~~its recommendations to the appropriate policy and fiscal~~  
22 ~~committees of the Senate and the Assembly. The study shall~~  
23 ~~incorporate findings and any other information that the Department~~  
24 ~~of Transportation deems helpful.~~ *update the June 1989 report*  
25 *entitled “Prevention of Wrong-Way Accidents” prepared by the*

1 Department of Transportation pursuant to Chapter 153 of the  
2 Statutes of 1987. The update shall account for technological  
3 advancements and innovation since publication of the 1989 report  
4 and shall include a review of methods studied or implemented by  
5 other jurisdictions, including state or local agencies within or  
6 outside the state, and methods studied by nongovernmental entities  
7 to prevent wrong-way drivers from entering state highways. The  
8 updated report shall be provided to the Senate Committee on  
9 Housing and Transportation and the Assembly Committee on  
10 Transportation on or before January 1, 2017. ~~The study report~~  
11 ~~shall include proposed solutions~~ identify any additional treatments  
12 and technologies with the potential to reduce the number of  
13 instances of wrong-way driving on state highways and ~~a proposed~~  
14 ~~schedule for implementing those solutions.~~ shall include a plan  
15 to incorporate those treatments and technologies into the  
16 Department of Transportation's wrong way monitoring and  
17 mitigation program for the state highway system.

18 (b) This section is repealed on January 1, 2021, pursuant to  
19 Section 10231.5 of the Government Code.