

**Introduced by Senator Allen**February 27, 2015

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

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 773, as introduced, 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, 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, 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. 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 both illegal and fundamentally unfair to the vast  
5 majority of Californians who comply with registration  
6 requirements. It robs the state and local governments of millions  
7 of dollars of revenues needed for vital purposes, such as  
8 transportation projects, supporting the Department of the California  
9 Highway Patrol, deterring auto theft, enforcing laws prohibiting  
10 driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, removing  
11 abandoned vehicles, and many other socially desirable programs.

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

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

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

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

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

26 4024. (a) The University of California is requested to conduct  
27 a study on motor vehicle registration fraud and failure to register  
28 a motor vehicle. The study shall include all of the following:

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

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

32 (3) The reasons for the behaviors of motorists who commit fraud  
33 in registrations of, or fail to register their, motor vehicles.

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

35 (5) Increases in air pollution.

- 1 (6) Other costs, and consequences of these behaviors.
- 2 (7) Recommended strategies for increasing compliance with
- 3 registration requirements.
- 4 (b) The Department of Motor Vehicles, the Department of the
- 5 California Highway Patrol, and other state agencies, as requested
- 6 by the University of California, shall fully cooperate with the
- 7 University of California in conducting the study.
- 8 (c) The University of California is requested to post a report of
- 9 the study on its Internet Web site no later than January 1, 2017.