

Legislation and regulations update

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Bureau of Automotive Repair

Important notice

The information in this presentation is current as of April 9, 2026. Because legislative and regulatory activities are subject to change, details such as bill summaries, dates, or regulation status may not reflect the most recent updates.

For the latest information, please visit:

- **Legislation:** www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov
- **Regulations:** www.bar.ca.gov/regulatory-actions

Important legislative dates

- **May 29, 2026** – Last day for each house (Senate/Assembly) to pass bills introduced in that house
- **July 2–August 3, 2026** – Summer Recess
- **August 31, 2026** – Last day for each house to pass bills
- **September 30, 2026** – Last day for the Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature
- **January 1, 2027** – Statutes (bills signed into law) take effect

2026 legislative bills

- **Senate Bill (SB) 988** (Grayson): California Motor Vehicle Glass Act
- **SB 1112** (Archuleta): Towing Companies and Storage Facilities
- **SB 1392** (Cortese/Grove): Smog Check Exemption for Collector Motor Vehicles
- **SB 1445** (Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development): Electronic Documentation

SB 988 (Grayson): California Motor Vehicle Glass Act

- **This bill would:** Establish new requirements for windshield repair and replacement, including:
 - **Disclosures:** Shops must notify consumers if their vehicle has an advanced driver assistance system (ADAS) and if calibration is required post-repair.
 - **Written notice and invoice:** Shops must provide written notice of calibration outcomes and itemized invoices.
- **Status:** Re-referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee on April 8, 2026. Hearing set for April 14, 2026.

SB 1112 (Archuleta): Towing Companies and Storage Facilities (1 of 2)

- **This bill would:**
 - Authorize the legal owner, lienholder, or insurer of a vehicle in the possession of a towing company or storage facility to initiate judicial proceedings to determine whether a vehicle was wrongfully taken or withheld or whether any storage charges include excessive or unreasonable fees.
 - Authorize the vehicle owner to post a bond of a maximum of \$6,250 if the owner of the vehicle is a company, and a maximum of \$500 if the owner of the vehicle is an individual.
 - Authorize the court to issue a certificate directing the release of the vehicle.
 - Require businesses, including auto body shops, to post a BAR notice explaining consumer rights under this bill.

SB 1112 (Archuleta): Towing Companies and Storage Facilities (2 of 2)

- **Status:** Re-referred to the Senate Judiciary and Business, Professions and Economic Development committees on April 8, 2026. Hearing set for April 14, 2026.

SB 1392 (Cortese/Grove): Smog Check Exemption for Collector Motor Vehicles (1 of 3)

- **This bill would:**

- Redefine “collector motor vehicle” as one that is:
 - At least 35 years old
 - Used primarily in shows, parades, charitable functions, and historical exhibitions for display, maintenance, and preservation
 - Not used as the owner's primary mode of transportation
 - Insured as a collector motor vehicle with proof of insurance submitted to DMV at the time of registration

SB 1392 (Cortese/Grove): Smog Check Exemption for Collector Motor Vehicles (2 of 3)

- **This bill would (continued):**
 - As a result of this revised definition:
 - A vehicle would no longer be required to be owned by a “collector” as defined in Vehicle Code (VC) section 5051(a).
 - Submission of proof that the vehicle is insured as a collector motor vehicle would still be required by regulation of the Bureau. This requirement remains unchanged in both Health and Safety Code (HSC) section 44011(c) and VC 4000.1(g)(1).
 - Exempt collector motor vehicles manufactured before the 1981 model year from Smog Check (biennial inspection only).

SB 1392 (Cortese/Grove): Smog Check Exemption for Collector Motor Vehicles (3 of 3)

- **This bill would (continued):**
 - Beginning January 1, 2028, extend the biennial exemption by one model year for five years, ending with model year 1985 collector motor vehicles on January 1, 2032.
 - Continue to allow collector motor vehicles 35 model years and older that are not eligible for the biennial exemption to be eligible for an abbreviated Smog Check inspection, in which they would be exempt from the visual check of emission control devices.
 - This process is currently available for the biennial, initial registration, and transfer of ownership inspection requirements.
- **Status:** Hearing set for April 21, 2026.

SB 1445 (Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development): Electronic Documentation

- This is an omnibus technical cleanup bill for DCA programs that includes a provision that would permit a written estimate to be in electronic format for automotive repair transactions.
 - Electronic estimates are currently authorized in BAR regulations. This provision clarifies this authority in statute.
- **Status:** Referred to the Committee on March 25, 2026.

Pending regulation packages

- Biometric Device Updates*
- Change of Address Requirements*
- Storage Fees Charged by Automotive Repair Dealers
- Airbag Safety
- Towing Authorization Requirement
- Business Information Updates

* Approved by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) and effective July 1, 2026.

Biometric Device Updates

- **Proposed changes:** Update the Smog Check Manual and Vehicle Safety Systems Inspection Manual to read “Fujitsu palm vein scanner sensor model FAT13FPS01 or newer...” (emphasis added)
- **Status:** Approved by OAL and submitted to the Secretary of State on April 2, 2026, with an effective date of July 1, 2026.

Change of Address Requirements

- **Proposed changes:**
 - Remove inconsistencies in current regulations by clarifying timeframes for reporting material changes. Specifically, update throughout BAR regulations the timeframe for notice of a change of address to 14 days and notice of other material changes to 30 days.
 - Remove duplicative text and make minor grammatical changes for consistency and clarification.
- **Status:** Approved by OAL and submitted to the Secretary of State on March 30, 2026, with an effective date of July 1, 2026.

Storage Fees Charged by Automotive Repair Dealers (1 of 4)

- **Proposed changes:**

- Codify existing laws on vehicle storage in BAR regulations. The proposed regulations would:
 - Establish that fees charged for the storage of a motor vehicle must be reasonable.
 - Determine when storage fees may be charged.
 - Require that an ARD store a vehicle at its primary business address as registered with the Bureau. If it is necessary to store the vehicle at a different location:
 - The ARD must notify the customer of the storage location prior to moving the vehicle; and
 - The ARD shall not charge to move the vehicle without authorization.

Storage Fees Charged by Automotive Repair Dealers (2 of 4)

- **Proposed changes (continued):**
 - Require that an ARD provide an itemized invoice for storage fees when charged.
 - Require an ARD that provides storage services to post their current daily storage fee rate in an area frequented by customers and provide the Bureau with their maximum daily storage rate when renewing their registration.
 - An ARD may make a change to their reported maximum daily storage rate once per registration cycle.
 - Require an ARD that maintains a motor carrier permit to display the Towing and Storage Fees Access Notice in an area of the business facility that is in plain view of the public and have copies available to the public.

Storage Fees Charged by Automotive Repair Dealers (3 of 4)

- **Proposed changes (continued):**
 - Create a search tool on BAR's website showing average and median daily storage rates for a given locale based on the maximum daily storage rates reported by ARDs.
 - Define a "locale" as one of four geographic radiuses around each reporting ARD that is sufficient to identify average and median storage rates for that locale.

Storage Fees Charged by Automotive Repair Dealers (4 of 4)

- **History:** Public workshops held on April 25, July 18, October 17, 2024, and January 30, 2025.
- **Status:** 45-day public comment period ended on December 31, 2025; a 15-day public comment period for additional proposed changes ended on April 13, 2026.
- **Next steps:** Submit final package to OAL for final approval and adoption.

Airbag Safety (1 of 3)

- **Proposed changes:**

- Prohibit an ARD from manufacturing, installing, or selling for sale any airbag which is part of an inflatable restraint system known, or which by the exercise of reasonable care should be known, to:
 - Have been previously deployed
 - Have an electrical fault
 - Include a component designed to mislead the vehicle owner or operator into believing a functional airbag has been installed
 - Display a mark identical or substantially similar to the genuine mark of a motor vehicle manufacturer, or of a supplier of parts to the manufacturer of a motor vehicle, without authorization from that manufacturer or supplier
- Require an ARD to restore an airbag that is part of an inflatable restraint system to its original operating condition as designed by the original equipment manufacturer (OEM).

Airbag Safety (2 of 3)

- **Proposed changes (continued):**

- Prescribe that an ARD can only purchase an airbag replacement part or component from:
 - The OEM;
 - A supplier or reseller previously authorized by the OEM whose airbag parts or components are not subject to a recall issued by the OEM or the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; or
 - An automotive dismantler licensed by the Department of Motor Vehicles, so long as the airbag has not been previously deployed, the airbag assembly shows no indications of damage, previous deployment, or tampering and the vehicle from which the used parts or components have no airbag-related recalls that have not been performed.
- Require an ARD to retain receipts for all parts received or purchased.

Airbag Safety (3 of 3)

- **Status:** Pending review by DCA Legal.
- **Next steps:** Complete internal review by DCA/Agency; file package with OAL and begin 45-day public comment period.

Towing Authorization Requirement (1 of 2)

- **Proposed changes:**

- Require an ARD that performs or contracts with another party to perform a towing service to obtain customer authorization of any towing fees prior to the towing service being performed.
- Require an ARD that maintains a motor carrier permit to obtain any towing fee authorization on a separate document from any repair authorization.
 - This requirement does not apply to a towing service that is needed to transport the vehicle as part of a sublet repair or to transfer the vehicle to a different location for purposes of storage.
- Require an ARD to list any storage-related and/or towing-related charges as separate line items on the invoice.

Towing Authorization Requirement (2 of 2)

- **Status:** Pending review by DCA Legal.
- **Next steps:** Complete internal review by DCA/Agency; file package with OAL and begin 45-day public comment period.

Business Information Updates (1 of 2)

- **Proposed changes:**

- Require on the ARD application a telephone number for the physical location of the business and a business email address.
- Ensure that, as a condition of registration renewal, all required application information is current and submitted to BAR.
- Include, in addition to internet-based advertising, that print and vehicle-based advertising clearly display the business name or DBA name and registration number.
- Clarify that internet-based advertising includes social media, email, and websites.

Business Information Updates (2 of 2)

- **Proposed changes (continued):**
 - Allow the display requirement for internet-based advertising to be satisfied if the advertisement links to another online source containing the required business name and registration number.
- **Status:** Pending review by DCA Legal.
- **Next steps:** Complete internal review by DCA/Agency; file package with OAL and begin 45-day public comment period.

Thank you

For comments and questions, please contact:

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www.bar.ca.gov



Bureau of Automotive Repair