

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF MOTION (AB 647) TO AUTHORIZE CITIES,
INCLUDING THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES, TO TOW AND DESTROY BROKEN DOWN
RECREATIONAL VEHICLES WITH AN APPRAISED VALUE OF LESS THAN \$4,000**

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LEGISSCAN

Bill Text: CA AB630 | 2025-2026 | Regular Session | Amended California Assembly Bill 630

NOTE: There are more recent revisions of this legislation. Read Latest Draft

Bill Title: Abandoned recreational vehicles.

Spectrum: Partisan Bill (Democrat 2)

Status: (Passed) 2025-10-13 - Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 699, Statutes of 2025. [AB630 Detail]

Download: California-2025-AB630-Amended.html

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 24, 2025

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2025–2026 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

NO. 630

Introduced by Assembly Member **Mark González**

February 13, 2025

An act to amend ~~Section 69501~~ of the Government Code, relating to courts; Section 22851.3 of the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 630, as amended, Mark González. ~~Courts: Judicial Council: Abandoned recreational vehicles.~~

~~Under existing law, if a peace officer or employee of a public agency has reasonable grounds to believe a vehicle is abandoned, they are authorized to remove the vehicle from a highway or public or private property and store it, as specified. Existing law provides a specific procedure for the disposal of an abandoned vehicle valued at \$500 or less that includes notifying the Stolen Vehicle System of the Department of Justice and contacting the registered and legal owners of record with the Department of Motor Vehicles, among other procedural requirements.~~

~~This bill would include within these disposal procedures the disposal of a recreational vehicle, as defined, valued at \$4,000 or less.~~

~~Existing law authorizes the chairperson of the Judicial Council to appoint committees, as prescribed, to advise with the council in studying various matters relating to the business of the courts, simplifying and improving the administration of justice, and other duties of the council.~~

~~This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to that provision.~~

Digest Key

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: ~~yes~~ Local Program: no

Bill Text

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. ~~Section 22851.3 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:~~

22851.3. Whenever a peace officer, as defined in Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 830) of Title 3 of Part 2 of the Penal Code, or any other employee of a public agency authorized pursuant to Section 22669, removes, or causes the removal of, a vehicle pursuant to Section 22669 and the public agency or, at the request of the public agency, the lienholder determines the estimated value of the vehicle is five hundred dollars (\$500) or less, ~~or four thousand dollars (\$4,000) or less if the vehicle is a recreational vehicle, as defined in Section 18010 of the Health and Safety Code, the public agency that removed, or caused the removal of, the vehicle shall cause the disposal of the vehicle under this section, subject to all of the following requirements:~~

- (a) Not less than 72 hours before the vehicle is removed, the peace officer or the authorized public employee has securely attached to the vehicle a distinctive notice which states that the vehicle will be removed by the public agency. This subdivision does not apply to abandoned vehicles removed pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 22669 which are determined by the public agency to have an estimated value of three hundred dollars (\$300) or less.
- (b) Immediately after removal of the vehicle, the public agency which removed, or caused the removal of, the vehicle shall notify the Stolen Vehicle System of the Department of Justice in Sacramento of the removal.
- (c) The public agency that removed, or caused the removal of, the vehicle or, at the request of the public agency, the lienholder shall obtain a copy of the names and addresses of all persons having an interest in the vehicle, if any, from the Department of Motor Vehicles either directly or by use of the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System. This subdivision does not require the public agency or lienholder to obtain a copy of the actual record on file at the Department of Motor Vehicles.
- (d) Within 48 hours of the removal, excluding weekends and holidays, the public agency that removed, or caused the removal of, the vehicle or, at the request of the public agency, the lienholder shall send a notice to the registered and legal owners at their addresses of record with the Department of Motor Vehicles, and to any other person known to have an interest in the vehicle. A notice sent by the public agency shall be sent by certified or first-class mail, and a notice sent by the lienholder shall be sent by certified mail. The notice shall include all of the following information:
- (1) The name, address, and telephone number of the public agency providing the notice.
 - (2) The location of the place of storage and description of the vehicle which shall include, if available, the vehicle make, license plate number, vehicle identification number, and mileage.
 - (3) The authority and purpose for the removal of the vehicle.
 - (4) A statement that the vehicle may be disposed of 15 days from the date of the notice.
 - (5) A statement that the owners and interested persons, or their agents, have the opportunity for a poststorage hearing before the public agency that removed, or caused the removal of, the vehicle to determine the validity of the storage if a request for a hearing is made in person, in writing, or by telephone within 10 days from the date of notice; that, if the owner or interested person, or ~~his or her~~ *their* agent, disagrees with the decision of the public agency, the decision may be reviewed pursuant to Section 11523 of the Government Code; and that during the time of the initial hearing, or during the time the decision is being reviewed pursuant to Section 11523 of the Government Code, the vehicle in question may not be disposed of.
- (e) (1) A requested hearing shall be conducted within 48 hours of the request, excluding weekends and holidays. The public agency that removed the vehicle may authorize its own officers to conduct the hearing if the hearing officer is not the same person who directed the storage of the vehicle.
- (2) Failure of either the registered or legal owner or interested person, or ~~his or her~~ *their* agent, to request or to attend a scheduled hearing shall satisfy the poststorage validity hearing requirement of this section.

(f) The public agency employing the person, or utilizing the services of a contractor or franchiser pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 22669, that removed, or caused the removal of, the vehicle and that directed any towing or storage, is responsible for the costs incurred for towing and storage if it is determined in the hearing that reasonable grounds to believe that the vehicle was abandoned are not established.

(g) An authorization for disposal may not be issued by the public agency that removed, or caused the removal of, the vehicle to a lienholder who is storing the vehicle prior to the conclusion of a requested poststorage hearing or any judicial review of that hearing.

(h) If, after 15 days from the notification date, the vehicle remains unclaimed and the towing and storage fees have not been paid, and if no request for a poststorage hearing was requested or a poststorage hearing was not attended, the public agency that removed, or caused the removal of, the vehicle shall provide to the lienholder who is storing the vehicle, on a form approved by the Department of Motor Vehicles, authorization to dispose of the vehicle. The lienholder may request the public agency to provide the authorization to dispose of the vehicle.

(i) If the vehicle is claimed by the owner or ~~his or her~~ *their* agent within 15 days of the notice date, the lienholder who is storing the vehicle may collect reasonable fees for services rendered, but may not collect lien sale fees as provided in Section 22851.12.

(j) Disposal of the vehicle by the lienholder who is storing the vehicle may only be to a licensed dismantler or scrap iron processor. A copy of the public agency's authorization for disposal shall be forwarded to the licensed dismantler within five days of disposal to a licensed dismantler. A copy of the public agency's authorization for disposal shall be retained by the lienholder who stored the vehicle for a period of 90 days if the vehicle is disposed of to a scrap iron processor.

(k) If the names and addresses of the registered and legal owners of the vehicle are not available from the records of the Department of Motor Vehicles, either directly or by use of the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System, the public agency may issue to the lienholder who stored the vehicle an authorization for disposal at any time after the removal.

The lienholder may request the public agency to issue an authorization for disposal after the lienholder ascertains that the names and addresses of the registered and legal owners of the vehicle are not available from the records of the Department of Motor Vehicles either directly or by use of the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System.

, A vehicle disposed of pursuant to this section may not be reconstructed or made operable, unless it is a vehicle that qualifies for either horseless carriage license plates or historical vehicle license plates, pursuant to Section 5004, in which case the vehicle may be reconstructed or made operable.

~~SECTION 1. Section 68501 of the Government Code is amended to read:~~

~~68501. The chairperson of the Judicial Council may appoint committees composed of official court reporters, judges, retired judges, attorneys, and experts in specialized fields, or any combination thereof, to advise with the Judicial Council in studying the condition of business in the several courts and the means for simplifying and improving the administration of justice, and in the performance of any other duties of the council authorized or imposed by law.~~

RESOLUTION

BO
RULES, ELECTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies, proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency, must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, abandoned and inoperable vehicles pose significant public health and safety concerns in the city of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 Point-in-Time Count estimated that nearly 6,500 individuals experiencing homelessness in the City of Los Angeles live in approximately 4,000 recreational vehicles (RVs); and

WHEREAS, many of these RVs are in extreme disrepair, exposing occupants to hazardous conditions and creating public health risks such as improper waste disposal, sewage leaks, fire hazards, and unsafe generator use; and

WHEREAS, people currently living in inoperable or dangerous RVs deserve to have a safe place to live; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill (AB) 630 (Gonzalez) addresses a significant portion of the unhoused population: individuals residing in unsafe and uninhabitable recreational vehicles; and

WHEREAS, AB 630 will ensure inoperable RVs are removed from city streets by increasing the value cap for dismantling abandoned RVs, adding additional notifications and reporting requirements before a vehicle can be scrapped, and requiring that an RV that is inoperable or is a public safety or environmental hazard is scrapped; and

WHEREAS, this legislation will expedite the removal and recycling of impounded RVs; and

WHEREAS, the City should support AB 630 as it will empower the City to more effectively address the environmental and public safety concerns associated with RV encampments; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2025-26 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for Assembly Bill 630 (Gonzalez).

PRESENTED BY: *Katy Yaroslavsky*
KATY YAROSLAVSKY
Councilwoman, 5th District

SECONDED BY: *Steph Felt*

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SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Civil Division

Central District, Stanley Mosk Courthouse, Department 86

26STCP00040

CD 11 COALITION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS vs CITY OF LOS ANGELES

February 19, 2026

1:30 PM

Judge: Honorable Curtis A. Kin
Judicial Assistant: Mysty Mort
Courtroom Assistant: Rosa Monterroso

CSR: None
ERM: None
Deputy Sheriff: None

APPEARANCES:

For Petitioner(s): Rebecca Carr Miller via LA CourtConnect; Shayla Myers; Erin H Neff via LA CourtConnect -- See additional appearances below.

For Defendant(s): Gabriel Dermer appearing for City of Los Angeles via LA CourtConnect

NATURE OF PROCEEDINGS: Order to Show Cause Re: Issued Alternative Writ of Mandate

The matter is called for hearing.

The Court provides a tentative ruling which is reviewed by counsel for each side. Counsel for each side submit on the tentative ruling which becomes the order of the Court as follows:

On 1/13/26, the Court issued an Order that an alternative writ of mandate issue compelling respondent City of Los Angeles (1) to vacate its instruction to the City Administrative Office, Los Angeles Department of Transportation, Los Angeles Police Department and the City Attorney's Office to implement AB 630 and (2) to comply with its mandatory duty to follow the law and, pursuant to Vehicle Code Section 22851.3, only authorize the disposal of vehicles with an estimated value of \$500. (1/13/26 Order; see also 1/13/26 Minute Order.) The Court also ordered that, in the alternative, respondent shall show cause in this Court on February 19 2026 why it has not complied with the alternative writ of mandate. (1/13/26 Order; see also 1/13/26 Minute Order.)

On 2/2/26, in a half-page response, entitled "Opposition to Petitioner's Application for Alternative Writ," respondent states that "[b]ecause the City has not actually implemented AB 630, no writ can issue." (Opp. at 1.) Explaining its position, respondent contends: "[T]he City Council instructed certain City departments to 'report back' on implementing AB 630 . . . That's it." (Opp. at 1.) As a factual matter, this is incorrect. In no uncertain terms, the City Council instructed the City Administrative Officer "to immediately implement AB 630 and report back in 30 days with an overview of its implementation plan." (Pet. Reply RJN Exs. 2, 3.) As a legal matter, the City is also incorrect. A writ of mandate may issue to prevent a City's implementation of unlawful Charter provisions or ordinances. (See, e.g., *People ex rel. Bonta v. City of Huntington Beach* (2025) 115 Cal.App.5th 962.) The City having failed to show cause,

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Judge: Honorable Curtis A. Kin
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Courtroom Assistant: Rosa Monterroso

CSR: None
ERM: None
Deputy Sheriff: None

the writ of mandate shall issue.

Notably, in its response, the City does not contest that it lacks authority under AB 630 to implement a program to dispose of recreational vehicles with an estimated value of \$4,000 or less. Nor could it. AB 630 unambiguously states that “[t]he Counties of Alameda and Los Angeles may implement a program to dispose of recreational vehicles.” (Pet. Reply RJN Ex. A at 1-2.) AB 630 provides no such authority to the City of Los Angeles. Indeed, as made clear in the City’s Request for Judicial Notice in opposition to petitioner’s ex parte application for an alternative writ, newly proposed legislation (AB 647) recognizes that AB 630 authorizes only the Counties of Alameda and Los Angeles to implement programs to dispose of abandoned recreational vehicles, as the new legislation specifically and explicitly authorizes public agencies within those counties to implement such programs. (Resp. RJN Ex. C.) Further, the City does not contest that, in the absence of any authority under AB 630, its ability to dispose of vehicles is limited by current law under Vehicle Code Section 22851.3 for vehicles valued at \$500 or less.

For the foregoing reasons, the writ of mandate shall issue as requested by petitioners.

Counsel for plaintiff shall give notice.

Additional appearance for Petitioner(s):
Adrienna Wong



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AB-647 Abandoned recreational vehicles. (2025-2026)

As Amends the Law Today

SECTION 1. *Section 22851.5 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:*

22851.5. (a) The Counties of Alameda and Los Angeles—Angeles, any public agency within the Counties of Alameda and Los Angeles, or a state agency may implement a program to dispose of recreational vehicles within the County of Alameda or the County of Los Angeles subject to the requirements described in subdivision (b).

(b) Whenever a peace officer, as defined in Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 830) of Title 3 of Part 2 of the Penal Code, or any other employee of a public agency authorized pursuant to Section 22669, removes, or causes the removal of, a recreational vehicle pursuant to Section 22669, and the public agency or, at the request of the public agency, the lienholder determines the estimated value of the recreational vehicle is four thousand dollars (\$4,000) or less, the public agency that removed, or caused the removal of, the recreational vehicle shall cause the disposal of the recreational vehicle subject to all of the following requirements:

(1) Not less than 72 hours before the recreational vehicle is removed, the peace officer or the authorized public employee has securely attached to the recreational vehicle a distinctive notice which states that the recreational vehicle will be removed by the public agency and that if the recreational vehicle is towed, it can be recovered for at least 30 days after the public agency notifies the registered owner of the recreational vehicle pursuant to paragraph (4). The notice shall also include contact information for an individual to learn where their recreational

vehicle and other possessions may be recovered. This subdivision does not apply to abandoned recreational vehicles removed pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 22669 which are determined by the public agency to have an estimated value of three hundred dollars (\$300) or less.

(2) Immediately after removal of the recreational vehicle, the public agency which removed, or caused the removal of, the vehicle shall notify the Stolen Vehicle System of the Department of Justice in Sacramento of the removal.

(3) The public agency that removed, or caused the removal of, the recreational vehicle or, at the request of the public agency, the lienholder shall obtain a copy of the names and addresses of all persons having an interest in the recreational vehicle, if any, from the Department of Motor Vehicles either directly or by use of the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System. This paragraph does not require the public agency or lienholder to obtain a copy of the actual record on file at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

(4) Within 48 hours of the removal, excluding weekends and holidays, the public agency that removed, or caused the removal of, the recreational vehicle or, at the request of the public agency, the lienholder shall send a notice to the registered and legal owners at their addresses of record with the Department of Motor Vehicles, and to any other person known to have an interest in the recreational vehicle. A notice sent by the public agency shall be sent by certified or first-class mail, and a notice sent by the lienholder shall be sent by certified mail. The notice shall include all of the following information:

(A) The name, address, and telephone number of the public agency providing the notice.

(B) The location of the place of storage and description of the recreational vehicle, which shall include, if available, the vehicle make, license plate number, vehicle identification number, and mileage.

(C) The authority and purpose for the removal of the recreational vehicle.

(D) A statement that the registered owner has up to 30 days from the date of notice to claim the recreational vehicle.

(E) A statement that the owners and interested persons, or their agents, have the opportunity for a poststorage hearing before the public agency that removed, or caused the removal of, the recreational vehicle to determine the validity of the storage if a request for a hearing is made in person, in writing, or by telephone within 10 days from the date of notice; that, if the owner or interested person, or their agent, disagrees with the decision of the public agency, the decision may be reviewed pursuant to Section 11523 of the Government Code; and that

during the time of the initial hearing, or during the time the decision is being reviewed pursuant to Section 11523 of the Government Code, the recreational vehicle in question may not be disposed of.

(5) If the agency performing the removal is unable to collect the information necessary to identify the registered and legal owner of the recreational vehicle, including, but not limited to, the vehicle identification number, and is consequently unable to send the notice described in paragraph (4), the agency shall instead place and affix at least two copies of the notice within close geographic proximity to the removal location within 48 hours of the removal.

(6) (A) A requested hearing shall be conducted within 48 hours of the request, excluding weekends and holidays. The public agency that removed the recreational vehicle may authorize its own officers to conduct the hearing if the hearing officer is not the same person who directed the storage of the recreational vehicle.

(B) Failure of either the registered or legal owner or interested person, or their agent, to request or to attend a scheduled hearing shall satisfy the poststorage validity hearing requirement of this section.

(7) The public agency employing the person, or utilizing the services of a contractor or franchiser pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 22669, that removed, or caused the removal of, the recreational vehicle and that directed any towing or storage, is responsible for the costs incurred for towing and storage if it is determined in the hearing that reasonable grounds to believe that the recreational vehicle was abandoned are not established.

(8) The public agency that removed, or caused the removal of, the recreational vehicle and that directed any towing and storage pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 22669, is responsible for the costs incurred for towing and storage if it is determined in the hearing that the recreational vehicle was not inoperable or was not a hazard to public health, safety, and welfare.

(9) An authorization for disposal may not be issued by the public agency that removed, or caused the removal of, the recreational vehicle to a lienholder who is storing the recreational vehicle prior to the conclusion of a requested poststorage hearing or any judicial review of that hearing.

(10) (A) If, after 30 days from the notification date, the recreational vehicle remains unclaimed and the towing and storage fees have not been paid, and if no poststorage hearing was requested or a poststorage hearing was not attended, the public agency that removed, or caused the removal of, the recreational vehicle shall provide to the lienholder who is storing the recreational vehicle, on a form approved by the Department of Motor Vehicles, authorization to dispose of the recreational vehicle. Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the authorization to

dispose of the recreational vehicle shall include a verification that the recreational vehicle is inoperable. The lienholder may request the public agency to provide the authorization to dispose of the recreational vehicle.

(B) If the recreational vehicle is operable, the public agency may authorize the disposal of the recreational vehicle only if it was towed due to it posing an environmental or public safety hazard.

(11) If the recreational vehicle is claimed by the owner or their agent within 30 days of the notice date, the lienholder who is storing the vehicle may collect reasonable fees for services rendered, but may not collect lien sale fees as provided in Section 22851.12.

(12) Disposal of the recreational vehicle by the lienholder who is storing the vehicle may only be to a licensed dismantler or scrap iron processor. A copy of the public agency's authorization for disposal shall be forwarded to the licensed dismantler within five days of disposal to a licensed dismantler. A copy of the public agency's authorization for disposal shall be retained by the lienholder who stored the recreational vehicle for a period of 90 days if the recreational vehicle is disposed of to a scrap iron processor.

(13) (A) If the names and addresses of the registered and legal owners of the recreational vehicle are not available from the records of the Department of Motor Vehicles, either directly or by use of the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System, the public agency may issue to the lienholder who stored the recreational vehicle an authorization for disposal at any time after the removal.

(B) The lienholder may request the public agency to issue an authorization for disposal after the lienholder ascertains that the names and addresses of the registered and legal owners of the recreational vehicle are not available from the records of the Department of Motor Vehicles either directly or by use of the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System.

(14) A recreational vehicle disposed of pursuant to this section may not be reconstructed or made operable, unless it is a vehicle that qualifies for either horseless carriage license plates or historical vehicle license plates, pursuant to Section 5004, in which case the vehicle may be reconstructed or made operable.

(15) Local public agencies authorized and designated to remove recreational vehicles pursuant to this section shall annually report to their governing body the following information regarding recreational vehicles removed pursuant to this section for the preceding year:

(A) The number of recreational vehicles removed.

(B) The number of people found in recreational vehicles prior to removal.

(13) (A) If the names and addresses of the registered and legal owners of the recreational vehicle are not available from the records of the Department of Motor Vehicles, either directly or by use of the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System, the public agency may issue to the lienholder who stored the recreational vehicle an authorization for disposal at any time after the removal.

(B) The lienholder may request the public agency to issue an authorization for disposal after the lienholder ascertains that the names and addresses of the registered and legal owners of the recreational vehicle are not available from the records of the Department of Motor Vehicles either directly or by use of the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System.

(14) A recreational vehicle disposed of pursuant to this section may not be reconstructed or made operable, unless it is a vehicle that qualifies for either horseless carriage license plates or historical vehicle license plates, pursuant to Section 5004, in which case the vehicle may be reconstructed or made operable.

(15) Local public agencies authorized and designated to remove recreational vehicles pursuant to this section shall annually report to their governing body the following information regarding recreational vehicles removed pursuant to this section for the preceding year:

(A) The number of recreational vehicles removed.

~~(B) The number of people found in recreational vehicles prior to removal.~~

(C) The number of recreational vehicles that were operable.

(D) The number of recreational vehicles that were inoperable.

(c) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) A "recreational vehicle" has the same meaning as defined in Section 18010 of the Health and Safety Code.

(2) A recreational vehicle is "inoperable" if it can only be moved by a tow truck.

(d) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, ~~2030~~, 2032, and as of that date is repealed.

SEC. 2. *The Legislature finds and declares that a special statute is necessary and that a general statute cannot be made applicable within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV of the California Constitution because of the unique needs to address issues related to abandoned recreational vehicles within the Counties of Alameda and Los Angeles.*

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