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AB-1499 Vehicles: accident reports. (2025-2026)

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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2025–2026 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

NO. 1499

Introduced by Assembly Member Essayli

February 21, 2025

An act to amend Section 16000 of the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1499, as introduced, Essayli. Vehicles: accident reports.

Existing law requires the driver of a motor vehicle who is involved in an accident that results in damage to the property of a person in excess of \$1,000, or in death or bodily injury, to report the accident to the Department of Motor Vehicles within 10 days after the accident, as specified. A violation of these provisions is punishable as an infraction.

This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to these provisions.

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

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

SECTION 1. Section 16000 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:

16000. (a) The driver of a motor vehicle who is in any manner involved in an accident originating from the operation of the motor vehicle on a street or highway, or is involved in a reportable off-highway accident, as defined in Section 16000.1, that has resulted in damage to the property of ~~any one~~ a person in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or in bodily injury, or in the death of ~~any person~~ a person, shall report the accident, within 10 days after the accident, either personally or through an insurance agent, broker, or legal representative, on a form approved by the department, to the office of the department at Sacramento, subject to this chapter. The driver shall identify on the form, by name and current residence address, if available, any person involved in the accident complaining of bodily injury.

(b) A report is not required under subdivision (a) if the motor vehicle involved in the accident was owned or leased by, or under the direction of, the United States, this state, another state, or a local agency.

(c) If none of the parties involved in an accident has reported the accident to the department under this section within one year following the date of the accident, the department is not required to file a report on the accident and the driver's license suspension requirements of Section 16004 or 16070 do not apply.

(d) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2017.