



S.F. No. 1179 – Fines increase for failure to provide vehicle insurance (as proposed to be amended by A-1 delete-everything amendment)

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S.F. 1179, as proposed to be amended by the A-1 delete-everything amendment, increases the statutory minimum for operating a vehicle on a public road without valid insurance but establishes a newly-created stay of imposition mechanism for the fine if the driver later obtains and verifies subsequent proof of insurance for the vehicle.

Sections 1 and 2 increase the minimum fine to \$200 for operating a vehicle on a public road without valid insurance, \$400 for an offense occurring within ten years of a prior violation, and \$600 for two or more prior violations within ten years. Provides that a person convicted of a misdemeanor under this section may obtain a stay of imposition of the fine if the person obtains and verifies subsequent proof of insurance for the vehicle.

An individual submitting subsequent proof of insurance must submit verification of continued coverage for the vehicle by the individual's final court date and six months after the date of the initial stay and must show no interruption in policy coverage for the vehicle except under certain circumstances. Obliges the commissioner of public safety to conduct periodic verification of individuals seeking a stay of their fine. Specifies conditions that must be imposed on a person seeking a stay, including that if a person did not comply with conditions of verification, a 50 percent increase of their fines or 25 percent increase in hours of community service imposed.

Section 3 institutes an annual reporting requirement on the commissioner of public safety. The commissioner must report to the legislature on how many individuals were charged with first, second, or subsequent violations of failing to operate a vehicle without insurance, how many individuals opted for a stay of imposition for their fines or were sentenced to community service, the percentage of individuals verified to have maintained continuous insurance coverage, verified instances of noncompliance or misrepresentation, and identified methods of the commissioner to obtain verification of continuous coverage.



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