

# SB 1509



**Not in California Act: Creating greater accountability for speeding**

UPDATED 8/16/2024

## SUMMARY

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SB 1509 increases accountability for driving at dangerous speeds by assigning two points for repeat offenses of excessive speeding that occur within three years and creates a graduated fine schedule based on the number of violations within a year.

## BACKGROUND

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We continue to face a traffic safety crisis on California roads. From 2013 to 2022, California had the most pedestrian deaths in the nation, with 9,415 lives lost due to traffic violence. In 2023, there were 8,843 bicyclist deaths and injuries resulting from motor vehicle collisions. In the first quarter of 2024, preliminary data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration revealed that traffic fatalities in California increased by 5% while the national rate declined by 3.2%.

Exacerbating this traffic safety crisis is the widespread issue of speeding. For the last decade, California has ranked second in the nation for the most speed related deaths with over one third of all collisions in the state being attributed to speed. In 2021 alone, 4,285 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes in California, reflecting a 7.7 % increase from 2020 and a 10.3 % increase from 2019. Of these fatalities, over one third, or 1,509 deaths were speed-related.

Speeding creates dangerous conditions for everyone on and off the road. Driving at excessive speeds: increases the potential for loss of vehicle control, limits a driver's reaction time in hazardous situations, extends safe stopping distances, and intensifies the severity of crashes.

Speeding and aggressive driving are the biggest safety concerns for California drivers and the state makes clear that this behavior is an issue that needs greater

attention and action. In 2023, the California Office of Traffic Safety released the 2024-2026 Highway Safety Plan. Included in this plan, is a goal of reducing speed-related fatalities by 7.95 percent from the 2021 number of 1,509 to 1,389 by December 31, 2026. In order to meet this goal, road users must slow down and comply with posted speed limits.

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) fulfills an essential function in traffic safety through its implementation of the Negligent Operator Treatment System (NOTS). NOTS serves as a mechanism for identifying and monitoring dangerous drivers by assigning violator points against a driver's license for certain traffic violations. The number of points assigned is dependent on the severity of the violation. The DMV may suspend a driver's license if a driver accumulates four points within a year, six points within two years, or eight points within three years.

The DMV has conducted multiple evaluations of the NOTS, all of which have deemed the program successful. DMV's latest NOTS evaluation included a reduction in subsequent crashes and citations of treated drivers

## THE SOLUTION

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SB 1509 would prohibit excessive speeding, defined as exceeding the posted speed limit by 26 mph or more on roads with a speed limit of 55 mph or less for passenger vehicles. These roads include, but are not limited to, school zones, residential streets, business districts, construction zones, and roads near senior citizen facilities.

To establish greater accountability for this dangerous driving behavior, SB 1509 makes excessive speeding punishable by:

- 1) One negligent operator point for the first violation and two points for any subsequent

violation within 3 years after a previous violation.

- 2) A fine not exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100) for the first infraction.
- 3) A fine not exceeding two hundred dollars (\$200) for a second infraction within one year of a prior infraction.
- 4) A fine not exceeding two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for a third or subsequent infraction occurring within one year of two or more prior infractions.

By increasing the penalties for those who repeatedly engage in excessive speeding, SB 1509 sends a clear message about the seriousness of speeding and the consequences of endangering oneself, pedestrians, bicyclist, and all other road users.

#### **SUPPORT**

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Streets Are For Everyone (Sponsor)  
National Coalition for Safer Roads  
California Highway Patrolman Association  
League of California Cities  
Streets For All  
City of Malibu  
City of Goleta  
City of Merced  
City of Alameda  
City of Oakland  
City of Lafayette  
City of Los Angeles  
Street Racing Kills  
America Walks  
Faith for SAFE Streets  
So Cal Families for Safe Streets  
Los Angeles Walks  
Encinitas Bike Walk  
SoCal Cycling  
Bike LA  
We Save Lives  
Generic Events  
Santa Monica Spoke  
Bicycle Club of Irvine  
Santa Monica Safe Streets Alliance  
Orange County Bicycle Coalition  
West Hollywood Bicycle Coalition  
Marin County Bicycle Coalition  
Sacramento Bicycle Advocates