



AB 436 (Alvarez): Cruising is Not a Crime

Bill Summary

This bill will repeal the authority of local agencies to prohibit cruising across the State and highlight the role of cruising in creating community, expressing love for art, and bringing unity.

Existing Law

Under existing law, a local authority is prohibited from enacting or enforcing an ordinance on matters covered by the Vehicle Code, unless expressly authorized by the Vehicle Code. Currently, local authorities adopt rules and regulations by ordinance or resolution regarding specified matters, including, among others, crossing guards, the operation of bicycles, the removal of illegally parked vehicles, and cruising, as defined. Additionally, under existing law, a passenger vehicle, or commercial vehicle under 6,000 pounds, that has been modified from its original design so that any portion of the vehicle, other than the wheels, has less clearance from the surface of a level roadway than the clearance between the roadway and the lowermost portion of any rim of any wheel in contact with the roadway to be operated is prohibited. In 2022 the California Legislature, with bipartisan support, passed Assembly Concurrent Resolution 176 (Luz Rivas) which celebrates and promotes the history and culture of cruising.

Background

Since the 1950s, car clubs and family members have converted older cars for cruising, shows, and competitions at events. Cruising is a historic and important part of culture for many multicultural communities.

The prohibition on operating an automobile below a certain point was enacted in state law soon thereafter (1958). California is one of the few states that regulate this attribute of an automobile. During the late 1980s, the state amended the Vehicle Code to authorize local

authorities to enact anti-cruising ordinances in response to the concern over traffic congestion and generalized fear of crime. Several cities and counties soon enacted ordinances that ban traveling along a certain route more than a few times within a specified time period.

In 2022, the city of Sacramento unanimously repealed this antiquated cruising ordinance. Most recently, National City also voted to repeal the local ordinance. Many other cities in California have also been considering the continuing need to repeal similar ordinances.

Details of the Bill

AB-436 would do the following:

- a) Repeal the authorization for a local authority to adopt rules and regulations regarding cruising.
- b) Repeal the prohibition on operating a passenger vehicle, or commercial vehicle under 6,000 pounds, that has been lowered below a certain point.

Support

- California Lowrider Alliance (Co-Sponsor)
- Sacramento Lowrider Commission (Co-Sponsor)
- United Lowrider Coalition (Co-Sponsor)
- Automotive Service Councils of California
- City of Ceres Council District 2

For More Information

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