

House Bill 978

House Bill 978 requires that law enforcement officers impound the vehicle of any person caught driving without a valid driver's license. While it does provide three exceptions – (1) persons driving with an expired license; (2) first-time offenders that are under 17 years of age; and (3) persons otherwise exempt from carrying a driver's license – it mandates impoundment in all other circumstances. To help address what I believe to be the concerns of this legislation's author, I have already signed Senate Bill 350, which enhances the penalties for driving without a valid driver's license. However, because I believe that officers should have discretion to determine when a vehicle should be impounded, and because I am concerned about how this legislation will impact new residents to , I cannot sign House Bill 978. I therefore VETO House Bill 978.