

SB 266 (STEINBERG) - MOTOR VEHICLE SPEED CONTEST: FORFEITURE.

THE PROBLEM:

According to public safety professionals, illegal speed contests and exhibitions of speed:

- **Pose a real, serious threat to the health and safety of the public**
- **Interfere with pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular traffic**
- **Create a public nuisance**

Public health and safety can be enhanced when illegal speed contests and exhibitions of speed are discouraged and prevented by the enactment of local ordinances that seek to impose forfeiture of vehicles used in such events as a penalty for illegal speed contests and exhibitions of speed.

California state law does not appear to expressly authorize cities or counties to enact local ordinances that impose vehicle forfeiture as a penalty for illegal speed contests and exhibitions of speed.

THE SOLUTION:

SB 266 would allow a county or city the option of adopting an ordinance to declare vehicles used in illegal speed contests a nuisance subject to forfeiture. The bill is carefully crafted to allow for release of the vehicle to an innocent registered owner or community property interest owner.

The legislation strikes a smart balance between the need for cities and counties to have the option of keeping nuisance vehicles used in speed contests off the streets while allowing other owners of the vehicle not involved in that illegal activity continued use of the vehicle.

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