

STAFF REPORT

AGENDA ITEM: Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) - Senate Bill (SB) 742 – Off-Highway Vehicle Indicia Study Report (DMV Indicia Study Report)

STAFF: Kitty Kramer, DMV
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Discussion: The Department of Motor Vehicles will brief the Commission on the report prepared pursuant to CVC 38165.

Background: During negotiations on SB 742, the question was raised about whether a change in the design and size of the current green and red stickers was warranted to help citizens and law enforcement officers identify off-highway vehicles involved in illegal activities. Some communities of interest believed the current green and red stickers were inadequate and a larger sized sticker or license plate or multiple stickers or plates would help victims of trespass or law enforcement officers to identify a violator. This issue was not easily resolved at the time as it would have required a major departure from the existing identification and equipment laws. Therefore, the matter was tabled and the DMV Indicia Study was ordered. At the same time, the OHMVR Division proposed that a change in the format of the current green and red stickers (to make the identification number the most prevalent feature) would improve identification. This change was adopted in SB 742 and implemented by DMV.

Report: Senate Bill 742 required the DMV, in conjunction with the OHMVR Division, to report back to the legislature regarding recommendations to improve the identification of off-highway motor vehicles. The report was completed and submitted by DMV by the required date of July 1, 2009. The Division made an effort to have DMV provide an update at the September and November meetings, but due to state budget freezes and travel restrictions, DMV has not been able to present to the OHMVR Commission until now. The report is available on the OHMVR Division website at: <http://www.ohv.parks.ca.gov/>

Changes in Law: CVC 38165 (a) required DMV to redesign the green and red stickers to make the identification number the most prominent feature of the indicia and (b) to report back to the legislature after studying other ways to possibly improve the identification of off-highway vehicles.

Status: DMV is currently producing and distributing the newly designed larger identification number indicia format as required by CVC 38165 (a).

The DMV Indicia Study Report submitted to the legislature recommended that no additional changes be made to the OHV identification at this time.