



# ASSEMBLY MEMBER AL MURATSUCHI

## 66TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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### AB 74 (Muratsuchi) – Street Takeovers, Sideshows and Racing

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#### **SUMMARY**

AB 74 updates existing laws to help strengthen enforcement tools to reduce street takeovers and prevent fatalities.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Street takeovers are dangerous, illegal events that occur all over California. Large crowds of spectators and vehicles block and “take over” public streets, interstates, or bridges to engage in reckless vehicle stunts while attracting other criminal behavior. According to the Los Angeles Police Department, Street takeovers have gone up 248% in Los Angeles since 2019.

In 2004, Los Angeles Municipal Code SEC.41.70.2, allowed local law enforcement the ability to abate and forfeit nuisance vehicles engaged in illegal speed contests and exhibition of speed. In 2021 the legislature passed AB 3 (Fong, CHP-611, Statutes of 2021), which authorized the suspension of driving privileges for up to 6 months for persons convicted of speed contest or exhibition of speed if the violation occurred as part of a sideshow. Further, just last year, AB 2000 (Gabriel, CHP-436, Statutes of 2022) passed, and prohibited speed contests and exhibition of speed in off-street parking facilities.

#### **ISSUE**

In recent years the Legislature has passed several bills in response to street takeovers, however their impact to meaningfully strengthen enforcement and deterrence efforts is minimal at best. Current laws do not directly address the totality of street takeovers and fail to capture the seriousness of these unsafe gatherings accurately. Existing penalties are minimal, with little deterrent effect. The lack of accountability and inability to discourage participation only embolden the street takeover culture. At the same time, victims and communities are frustrated over the lack of justice. Not only do street takeovers obstruct vehicle and pedestrian traffic, but they also involve violence, destruction of property, looting, fires and explosives,

possession of guns and other deadly weapons, and the public use of narcotics and alcohol. These chaotic gatherings are posted on social media, promoting a reckless culture of lawlessness and disregard for public safety.

Spectators and innocent bystanders have suffered severe injuries, and the rate of fatalities continues to increase. In the City of Los Angeles, street takeovers has taken the lives of 18 people in the last four years. Almost all street takeovers occur on public streets instead of private parking lots. While suspending a person’s driving privilege is an additional enforcement tool, it has minimal punitive and deterrent effects. The most harmed constituents tend to be those predominantly living in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color.

#### **SOLUTION**

To combat vehicle street takeovers, AB 74, based on L.A.M.C. SEC. 41.70.2 would do the following:

- Strengthens pre-conviction and post-conviction deterrence measures by expanding the ability to seize vehicles used as commission in the crime.
- Updates the definition of a street takeover as its own standalone crime, recognizing that these dangerous gatherings warrant special consideration.
- Imposes additional burdens on the driving privileges of violators and makes it a crime for a person to knowingly attend, participate in or aide in a street takeover.
- Provides courts with judicial discretion with sentencing a seizure, which includes consideration for hardship for those who rely on their vehicles for livelihood.

#### **STAFF CONTACT**

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#### **SUPPORT**

City of Los Angeles (Sponsors pending Proclamation)