



## **BILL SUMMARY**

**AB 543: "Miss and Run"**

Date: November 10, 1999

### **BACKGROUND**

Under current law, a driver whose vehicle is involved in an accident that results in vehicle damage or injury is required to remain at the scene to render aid if needed and to provide contact information to any person whose vehicle is struck in the accident.

### **SUMMARY OF AB 543**

Assembly Bill 543 extends the duty to stop at the scene of an accident to any driver who knew or should have known that their actions caused the accident, regardless of whether or not the vehicle that person was driving was struck or damaged in the accident. Penalties for violation of this "miss and run" requirement, would be the same as those imposed on a driver under current "hit and run" laws.

### **AMENDMENTS**

No amendments were offered to Assembly Bill 543.

### **FISCAL EFFECT**

No fiscal estimate was prepared for Assembly Bill 543.

### **PROS**

1. AB 543 would ensure that a driver whose action may have caused a collision, but who was not driving a "contact" vehicle could be charged with a crime if they leave the scene of an accident.
2. AB 543 could help in the fight against road rage, by holding drivers who force other motorists off the road responsible for their actions if it results in injury to another person, or damage to another's property.

### **CONS**

1. It might be difficult for district attorneys to prove that a person "should have" known that their actions caused an accident.

### **SUPPORTERS**

Rep. Jeff Stone, author; Sen. Joanne Huelsman, co-author; John Burr, Dane County DA's Office

### **OPPOSITION**

No one testified or registered against AB 543.

### **HISTORY**

Assembly Bill 543 was introduced on October 20, 1999, and referred to the Assembly Committee on Highway Safety. A public hearing was held on October 27, 1999. On November 3, 1999, the Committee voted 8-0 to recommend passage of AB 543.

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