



Southwestern Insurance Information Service

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INSURANCE NEWS

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Drivers Like New Insurance Proposal

Measure Would Impound Cars Of Uninsured Drivers

The recession has forced many Oklahoma families to cut costs and thousands of drivers have given up their auto insurance.

Oklahoma State Rep. Steve Martin said it's dangerous to have up to 25 percent of Oklahoma drivers without insurance. He's introduced a measure that would impound the cars of drivers who are uninsured. He said law enforcement officers have new data verification systems that can quickly check if a driver has insurance. Martin has said the system is accurate and additional safeguards would be used to make sure no cars were inappropriately impounded.

Car owners whose vehicles get impounded can't get them back until they show they have purchased an insurance policy.

Drivers said they like the proposal.

"I know several people that work with us have been run into with people who have no insurance and have to fix their own car," said driver Butch Cheatham. "That's not right."

The Insurance Research Council said the average crash involving uninsured drivers cost the victim \$11,000.

"It can be very expensive," said Jim Robertson. "I mean, with the prices of vehicles these days and repairs and everything else and being without a vehicle and having to get a rental car, (it's) very expensive."

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Other states have a similar no insurance, no car law.

In Texas, first-time offenders will get a warning. Uninsured drivers will have their cars impounded if they're stopped a second time.

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