

**HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 374**

A bill to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled  
"Michigan vehicle code,"  
by amending section 224 (MCL 257.224), as amended by 2018 PA 342.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1       Sec. 224. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this act  
2 regarding tabs or stickers, upon registering a vehicle, the  
3 secretary of state shall issue to the owner 1 registration plate.

4       (2) A registration plate shall display the registration number  
5 assigned to the vehicle for which the registration plate is issued;  
6 the name of this state, which may be abbreviated; and when the  
7 registration plate expires, which may be shown by a tab or sticker  
8 furnished by the secretary of state.

9       (3) A registration plate issued for motor vehicles owned and  
10 operated by this state; a state institution; a municipality; a

1 privately incorporated, nonprofit volunteer fire department; or a  
2 nonpublic, nonprofit college or university of this state ~~shall~~**DOES**  
3 not expire at any particular time but shall be renewed when the  
4 registration plate is worn out or is illegible. This registration  
5 plate shall be assigned upon proper application and payment of the  
6 applicable fee and may be used on any eligible vehicle titled to  
7 the applicant if a written record is kept of the vehicles upon  
8 which the registration plate is used. The written record shall  
9 state the time the registration plate is used on a particular  
10 vehicle. The record shall be open to inspection by a law  
11 enforcement officer or a representative of the secretary of state.

12 (4) A registration plate issued for a vehicle owned by the  
13 civil air patrol as organized under 36 USC ~~201 to 208;~~**40301 TO**  
14 **40307;** a vehicle owned by a nonprofit organization and used to  
15 transport equipment for providing dialysis treatment to children at  
16 camp; an emergency support vehicle used exclusively for emergencies  
17 and owned and operated by a federally recognized nonprofit  
18 charitable organization; a vehicle owned and operated by a  
19 nonprofit veterans center; a motor vehicle having a truck chassis  
20 and a locomotive or ship's body which is owned by a nonprofit  
21 veterans organization and used exclusively in parades and civic  
22 events; a vehicle owned and operated by a nonprofit recycling  
23 center or a federally recognized nonprofit conservation  
24 organization until December 31, 2000; a motor vehicle owned and  
25 operated by a senior citizen center; and a registration plate  
26 issued for buses including station wagons, carryalls, or similarly  
27 constructed vehicles owned and operated by a nonprofit parents'

1 transportation corporation used for school purposes, parochial  
2 school, society, church Sunday school, or other grammar school, or  
3 by a nonprofit youth organization or nonprofit rehabilitation  
4 facility shall be issued upon proper application and payment of the  
5 applicable tax provided in section 801(1)(g) or (h) to the  
6 applicant for the vehicle identified in the application. The  
7 vehicle shall be used exclusively for activities of the school or  
8 organization and shall be designated by proper signs showing the  
9 school or organization operating the vehicle. The registration  
10 plate ~~shall expire~~ **EXPIRES** on December 31 in the fifth year  
11 following the date of issuance. The registration plate may be  
12 transferred to another vehicle upon proper application and payment  
13 of a \$10.00 transfer fee.

14 (5) The department shall offer a standard design registration  
15 plate that complies with the requirements of this act. The standard  
16 design registration plate shall be of a common color scheme and  
17 design that is made of fully reflectorized material and shall be  
18 clearly visible at night. **NO LATER THAN 1 YEAR AFTER THE EFFECTIVE**  
19 **DATE OF THE AMENDATORY ACT THAT AMENDED THIS SECTION, THE**  
20 **DEPARTMENT SHALL USE A DIGITAL PRINTING METHOD TO CREATE ALL**  
21 **STANDARD DESIGN REGISTRATION PLATES. AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION,**  
22 **"DIGITAL PRINTING METHOD" MEANS A METHOD OF CREATING A REGISTRATION**  
23 **PLATE USING A RETROFLECTIVE SHEETING MATERIAL THAT IS PRINTED**  
24 **UTILIZING UV-CURABLE INK-JET TECHNOLOGY TO ACHIEVE THE HIGHEST**  
25 **QUALITY AND SPEED OF PRINTING.**

26 (6) **NO LATER THAN 1 YEAR AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE**  
27 **AMENDATORY ACT THAT AMENDED THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL**

1 PERMIT THE REGISTRANT OF A VEHICLE TO DISPLAY A DIGITAL  
2 REGISTRATION PLATE IN LIEU OF THE STANDARD DESIGN REGISTRATION  
3 PLATE DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (5). AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION  
4 "DIGITAL REGISTRATION PLATE" MEANS AN ELECTRONIC DISPLAY THAT IS  
5 MOUNTED ON THE REAR OF A VEHICLE IN PLACE OF A REGISTRATION PLATE  
6 ISSUED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE. ANY DATA COLLECTED BY THE  
7 DEPARTMENT OR BY A VENDEE SELECTED BY THE DEPARTMENT THROUGH THE  
8 USE OF DIGITAL REGISTRATION PLATES IS THE PROPERTY OF THE  
9 DEPARTMENT. ANY USE OF DATA COLLECTED THROUGH THE USE OF A DIGITAL  
10 REGISTRATION PLATE IS NONEXCLUSIVE AND IS GOVERNED BY THIS ACT.

11 (7) ~~(6)~~—The department may use the Pure Michigan brand or a  
12 successor or similar brand that is used in conjunction with this  
13 state's promotion, travel, and tourism campaigns or marketing  
14 efforts as part of the standard design for registration plates.

15 (8) ~~(7)~~—The registration plate and the required letters and  
16 numerals on the registration plate shall be of sufficient size to  
17 be plainly readable from a distance of 100 feet during daylight.  
18 The secretary of state may issue a tab or tabs designating the  
19 month and year of expiration.

20 (9) ~~(8)~~—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the  
21 secretary of state shall issue for every passenger motor vehicle  
22 rented without a driver the same type of registration plate as the  
23 type of registration plate issued for private passenger vehicles.  
24 This subsection does not apply to a special registration plate  
25 issued for a vehicle in a fleet under section 801h.

26 (10) ~~(9)~~—A person shall not operate a vehicle on the public  
27 highways or streets of this state displaying a registration plate

1 other than the registration plate issued for the vehicle by the  
2 secretary of state, except as provided in this chapter for  
3 nonresidents, or by assignment as provided in subsection (3).

4       **(11)** ~~(10)~~ The registration plate displayed on a vehicle  
5 registered on the basis of elected gross weight shall indicate the  
6 elected gross weight for which the vehicle is registered.

7       **(12)** ~~(11)~~ Beginning on January 1, 2015, **THE SECRETARY OF STATE**  
8 **SHALL NOT RENEW** a registration plate issued by the department under  
9 this section ~~shall not be renewed~~ 10 years after the date that  
10 registration plate was issued. The owner of a vehicle whose  
11 registration plate is no longer eligible for renewal under this  
12 subsection shall obtain a replacement registration plate upon  
13 payment of the fee required under section 804. For any alphanumeric  
14 series that the department has retired from circulation, upon  
15 request of the owner of a vehicle whose registration plate is no  
16 longer eligible for renewal under this subsection, the department  
17 may issue a new registration plate with the same registration  
18 number as was displayed on the expired registration plate as  
19 provided under section 803b.

20       Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 90 days  
21 after the date it is enacted into law.

22       Enacting section 2. This amendatory act does not take effect  
23 unless House Bill No. 4990 of the 99th Legislature is enacted into  
24 law.