

MICHIGAN VEHICLE CODE (EXCERPT)
Act 300 of 1949

257.624b Transport or possession of alcoholic liquor by person less than 21 years of age.

Sec. 624b.

(1) An individual less than 21 years of age shall not knowingly transport or possess alcoholic liquor in a motor vehicle as an operator or occupant unless the individual is employed by a licensee under the Michigan liquor control code of 1998, 1998 PA 58, MCL 436.1101 to 436.2303, a common carrier designated by the liquor control commission under the Michigan liquor control code of 1998, 1998 PA 58, MCL 436.1101 to 436.2303, the liquor control commission, or an agent of the liquor control commission and is transporting or having the alcoholic liquor in a motor vehicle under the individual's control during regular working hours and in the course of the individual's employment. This section does not prevent an individual less than 21 years of age from knowingly transporting alcoholic liquor in a motor vehicle if an individual at least 21 years of age is present inside the motor vehicle. An individual who violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor. As part of the sentence, the individual may be ordered to perform community service and undergo substance abuse screening and assessment at his or her own expense as described in section 703(1) of the Michigan liquor control code of 1998, 1998 PA 58, MCL 436.1703.

(2) Within 30 days after the conviction for a violation of subsection (1) by the operator of a motor vehicle, which conviction has become final, the arresting law enforcement officer or the officer's superior may make a complaint before the court from which the warrant was issued. The complaint must be under oath and must describe the motor vehicle in which alcoholic liquor was possessed or transported by the operator, who is less than 21 years of age, in committing the violation and requesting that the motor vehicle be impounded as provided in this section. Upon the filing of the complaint, the court shall issue to the owner of the motor vehicle an order to show cause why the motor vehicle should not be impounded. The order to show cause must fix a date and time for a hearing, that is not less than 10 days after the issuance of the order. The order must be served by delivering a true copy to the owner not less than 3 full days before the date of hearing or, if the owner cannot be located, by sending a true copy by certified mail to the last known address of the owner. If the owner is a nonresident of the state, service may be made upon the secretary of state as provided in section 403.

(3) If the court determines upon the hearing of the order to show cause, from competent and relevant evidence, that at the time of the commission of the violation the motor vehicle was being driven by the individual less than 21 years of age with the express or implied consent or knowledge of the owner in violation of subsection (1), and that the use of the motor vehicle is not needed by the owner in the direct pursuit of the owner's employment or the actual operation of the owner's business, the court may authorize the impounding of the vehicle for a period of not less than 15 days or more than 30 days. The court's order authorizing the impounding of the vehicle must authorize a law enforcement officer to take possession without other process of the motor vehicle wherever located and to store the vehicle in a public or private garage at the expense and risk of the owner of the vehicle. The owner of the vehicle may appeal the order to the circuit court and the provisions governing the taking of appeals from judgments for damages apply to the appeal. This section does not prevent a bona fide lienholder from exercising rights under a lien.

(4) A person who knowingly transfers title to a motor vehicle for the purpose of avoiding this section is responsible for a civil infraction and shall be ordered to pay a civil fine of not more than \$100.00.

(5) A law enforcement agency, upon determining that an individual less than 18 years of age allegedly violated this section, shall notify the parent or parents, custodian, or guardian of the individual as to the nature of the violation if the name of a parent, guardian, or custodian is reasonably ascertainable by the law enforcement agency. The notice required by this subsection must be made not later than 48 hours after the law enforcement agency determines that the individual who allegedly violated this section is less than 18 years of age and may be made in person, by telephone, or by first-class mail.

History: Add. 1996, Act 493, Eff. Apr. 1, 1997 ;-- Am. 1998, Act 349, Eff. Oct. 1, 1999 ;-- Am. 2003, Act 61, Eff. Sept. 30, 2003 ;-- Am. 2020, Act 382, Eff. Oct. 1, 2021