



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

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**REGISTRATION OF CERT. VEHICLES**

**House Bill 4203**

**Sponsor: Rep. Gregory E. Pitoniak**

**Committee: Transportation**

**Complete to 2-6-96**

**A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4203 AS INTRODUCED 1-30-95**

The Michigan Vehicle Code generally requires all motor vehicles and trailers, when driven or moved on state roadways, to be registered and titled with the secretary of state, but exempts certain vehicles from these requirements. The bill would add to the list of exempt vehicles a "converter gear" and "pull-dolly," which the bill would define, respectively, as "an auxiliary undercarriage assembly with a fifth wheel and tow bar used to convert a semitrailer to a full trailer" and "an auxiliary towing device designed so that two wheels of a vehicle rest upon it [to be] towed by another vehicle." Under the bill, the definition for "trailer" specifically would exclude these vehicles.

The act currently allows owners of vehicles required to be registered to obtain refunds for registrations in certain circumstances. The bill specifies that after the owner or lessee of a vehicle received a renewal registration plate or tab for a registered vehicle, he or she could apply for and obtain a full renewal registration or tab refund if he or she provided satisfactory proof to the secretary of state that all of the following applied:

\* The vehicle met at least one of the following criteria: 1) it was stolen and had not been recovered, 2) its ownership was transferred or assigned, 3) it had been registered in error as part of a fleet but never intended to be used in a fleet, or 4) its lease had been canceled;

\* The renewal registration period was for neither less than nor more than 12 months;

\* One of the four criteria above had been met before the 12-month renewal period began;  
and

\* Within 30 days after a vehicle met at least one of the four criteria, its owner or lessee returned the registration plate or tab to the secretary of state. If the plate or tab had been issued as an international registration plan plate or tab, a refund could not exceed the total amount of Michigan-apportioned fees assessed for the plate/tab. (The IRP is a method of registering vehicle fleets engaged in interstate commerce, where registration fees are apportioned according to the number of miles traveled by a vehicle in Michigan, relative to total miles traveled elsewhere.)

The act currently provides that the owner of a trailer or semitrailer who transfers or assigns the title or interest in the vehicle may obtain a refund from the secretary of state on the

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registration for each unused, whole registration period remaining on the registration from the date the plates are returned and the application for a refund is made; the bill would delete this provision.

In addition, the bill would include under the provisions governing registration of vehicles under the IRP both wreckers and buses engaged in interstate commerce.

MCL 257.73 et al.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.