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Senate Bill 128 (as introduced 1-28-09)  
Sponsor: Senator Cameron S. Brown  
Committee: Transportation

Date Completed: 5-11-09

### **CONTENT**

**The bill would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to require the Secretary of State (SOS) to design, develop, and issue a fund-raising plate with the words "In God We Trust" inscribed on the plate; and eliminate the limit on the number of State-sponsored fund-raising plates that may be developed.**

The Code allows the SOS to develop at one time, up to eight different State-sponsored fund-raising license plates, along with matching State-sponsored collector plates. The bill would eliminate that restriction on the number of plates.

The bill would require the SOS to develop under Section 811e and issue under Section 811f a fund-raising plate inscribed with the words "In God We Trust". The Secretary of State would have to transfer the donation money from the sale of "In God We Trust" fund-raising plates to the State Treasurer, who would have to credit the money to the State's General Fund.

(Section 811e requires a \$15,000 start-up fee to be paid for any new fund-raising plate within 18 months after the effective date of the public act authorizing the plate. The fee must be deposited in the Transportation Administration Collection Fund and used for the cost of creating, producing, and issuing fund-raising plates.)

Section 811f authorizes the Secretary of State, upon application, to issue one fund-raising plate instead of a standard plate for use on a motor vehicle. A person applying for a fund-raising plate must pay a \$25 fund-raising donation, the regular vehicle registration tax, and a \$10 service fee. A person applying to renew a fund-raising plate must pay a \$25 donation and the regular registration tax.)

MCL 257.811e et al.

Legislative Analyst: Curtis Walker

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The bill would create a start-up cost to the Department of State. The start-up fee of \$15,000 prescribed in the Code normally covers the Department's start-up costs; however, it is uncertain who would pay this start-up fee as the bill does not propose a nonprofit fund from which the start-up fee would be paid.

The bill would have no fiscal impact on local government.

Fiscal Analyst: Joe Carrasco

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