

**SUBSTITUTE FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 5568**

A bill to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled  
"Michigan vehicle code,"  
by amending section 224 (MCL 257.224), as amended by 2018 PA 656.

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

9           (3) A registration plate issued for motor vehicles owned and



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

13 (4) A registration plate issued for a vehicle owned by the  
 14 ~~civil air patrol~~**Civil Air Patrol** as organized under 36 USC 40301  
 15 to 40307; a vehicle owned by a nonprofit organization and used to  
 16 transport equipment for providing dialysis treatment to children at  
 17 camp; an emergency support vehicle used exclusively for emergencies  
 18 and owned and operated by a federally recognized nonprofit  
 19 charitable organization; a vehicle owned and operated by a  
 20 nonprofit food pantry or nonprofit food bank; a vehicle owned and  
 21 operated by a nonprofit veterans center; a motor vehicle having a  
 22 truck chassis and a locomotive or ship's body that is owned by a  
 23 nonprofit veterans organization and used exclusively in parades and  
 24 civic events; ~~a vehicle owned and operated by a nonprofit recycling~~  
 25 ~~center or a federally recognized nonprofit conservation~~  
 26 ~~organization until December 31, 2000;~~ a motor vehicle owned and  
 27 operated by a senior citizen center; and a registration plate  
 28 issued for buses including station wagons, carryalls, or similarly  
 29 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~~**must** be issued upon proper application and payment  
5 of the 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~~**must** be used exclusively for activities of the school  
8 or organization and ~~shall~~**must** be designated by proper signs  
9 showing the school or organization operating the vehicle. The  
10 registration plate 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~~**must** be of a common color scheme  
17 and design that is made of fully reflectorized material and ~~shall~~  
18 **must** be clearly visible at night. **If sufficient funding is**  
19 **appropriated by no later than October 1, 2023, then no later than**  
20 **October 1, 2024, the department shall use a digital printing method**  
21 **to create all standard design registration plates. The department**  
22 **shall solicit competitive bids for the system design for the**  
23 **digital printing method. The competitive bidding process for the**  
24 **system design for the digital printing method must comply with the**  
25 **requirements for the competitive solicitation of bids as provided**  
26 **in section 261 of the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL**  
27 **18.1261, and the competitive bid specifications must include, but**  
28 **not be limited to, all of the following:**

29 (a) A requirement for the procurement of services and



1 materials from more than 1 source.

2 (b) A requirement that the digital printing method must not be  
3 designed around a single or specific product, piece of major  
4 equipment or machinery, specific patented design, or proprietary  
5 process, unless required by principles of sound engineering  
6 practice and approved in writing by the department.

7 (c) A provision for the training of the current labor force by  
8 the contractor on using, repairing, and maintaining any necessary  
9 equipment or machinery for the digital printing method.

10 (d) A provision that the system design for the digital  
11 printing system be capable of working with the existing  
12 functionality of current products and equipment used by the  
13 department of corrections for registration plates.

14 (6) No later than ~~1 year after the effective date of the~~  
15 ~~amendatory act that amended this section, March 29, 2020,~~ the  
16 department shall permit the registrant of a vehicle to display a  
17 digital registration plate in lieu of the standard design  
18 registration plate described in subsection (5). As used in this  
19 subsection "digital registration plate" means an electronic display  
20 that is mounted on the rear of a vehicle in place of a registration  
21 plate issued by the secretary of state. Any data collected by the  
22 department or by a vendee selected by the department through the  
23 use of digital registration plates is the property of the  
24 department. Any use of data collected through the use of a digital  
25 registration plate is nonexclusive and is governed by this act.

26 (7) The department may use the Pure Michigan brand or a  
27 successor or similar brand that is used in conjunction with this  
28 state's promotion, travel, and tourism campaigns or marketing  
29 efforts as part of the standard design for registration plates.



1 (8) The registration plate and the required letters and  
 2 numerals on the registration plate ~~shall~~**must** be of sufficient size  
 3 to be plainly readable from a distance of 100 feet during daylight.  
 4 The secretary of state may issue a tab or tabs designating the  
 5 month and year of expiration.

6 (9) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the  
 7 secretary of state shall issue for every passenger motor vehicle  
 8 rented without a driver the same type of registration plate as the  
 9 type of registration plate issued for private passenger vehicles.  
 10 This subsection does not apply to a special registration plate  
 11 issued for a vehicle in a fleet under section 801h.

12 (10) A person shall not operate a vehicle on the public  
 13 highways or streets of this state displaying a registration plate  
 14 other than the registration plate issued for the vehicle by the  
 15 secretary of state, except as provided in this chapter for  
 16 nonresidents, or by assignment as provided in subsection (3).

17 (11) The registration plate displayed on a vehicle registered  
 18 on the basis of elected gross weight ~~shall~~**must** indicate the  
 19 elected gross weight for which the vehicle is registered.

20 (12) ~~Beginning on January 1, 2015, a~~**A** registration plate  
 21 issued by the department under this section ~~shall~~**must** not be  
 22 renewed 10 years after the date that registration plate was issued.  
 23 The owner of a vehicle whose registration plate is ~~no longer~~**not**  
 24 eligible for renewal under this subsection must obtain a  
 25 replacement registration plate upon payment of the fee required  
 26 under section 804. For any alphanumeric series that the department  
 27 has retired from circulation, upon request of the owner of a  
 28 vehicle whose registration plate is ~~no longer~~**not** eligible for  
 29 renewal under this subsection, the department may issue a new



1 registration plate with the same registration number as was  
2 displayed on the expired registration plate as provided under  
3 section 803b.

4       **(13) As used in this section, "digital printing method" means**  
5 **a method of creating a registration plate using a retroreflective**  
6 **sheeting material that is printed digitally and then laminated to**  
7 **an aluminum substrate.**