

Legislative Analysis



MICHIGAN MUTUAL AID BOX ALARM SYSTEM

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 5341 as reported from committee
Sponsor: Rep. Brian BeGole

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

House Bill 5342 as reported from committee
Sponsor: Rep. Nate Shannon

Committee: Transportation, Mobility and Infrastructure
Complete to 5-23-24

SUMMARY:

House Bill 5341 would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to provide that a vehicle that meets both of the following is defined as an *authorized emergency vehicle* whenever that term is used in the code:

- The vehicle is owned by the Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, a public agency as that term is defined in section 2 of the Urban Cooperation Act.¹
- The vehicle is operated during an interlocal emergency under an interlocal agreement under the Urban Cooperation Act.²

The code limits which vehicles are allowed to have or use flashing, rotating, or oscillating lights. The bill would amend these provisions to allow an *authorized emergency vehicle* owned by the Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System and operated as part of an emergency response to be equipped with flashing, rotating, or oscillating red, white, amber, or green lights.

MCL 257.2 and 257.698

House Bill 5342 would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to exempt a Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System employee or member who meets the applicable driver training standards for firefighters and who is operating an *authorized emergency vehicle* from provisions related to commercial vehicle driving skills tests and endorsements.

MCL 257.312e

Neither bill would take effect unless both bills were enacted.

BACKGROUND:

The Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) is a statewide mutual aid agreement that covers liability and authority to receive and provide mutual aid to other fire departments that have signed the MABAS Agreement.³ These department resources come from across the state or in the neighboring community.

¹ <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?objectName=MCL-124-502>

² <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?objectName=mcl-Act-7-of-1967-Ex-Sess->

³ <https://mabasmi.org/>

Through mutual aid, MABAS has the capability to provide emergency response locally or statewide when lives, property, or the environment is threatened by disasters or emergencies by deploying fire resources, emergency medical services, technical rescue teams, hazardous materials teams, and other special rescue operations needed and requested by the threatened community.⁴

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bills would not have a direct fiscal impact on the state or local units of government.

POSITIONS:

The Department of State indicated a neutral position on the bills. (5-14-24)

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

⁴ https://www.michigan.gov/msp/-/media/Project/Websites/msp/EMHSD/mabas_mi_information_flyer.pdf