



Senate Bill 465 (Substitute S-1 as reported)  
Sponsor: Senator Sam Singh  
Committee: Transportation and Infrastructure

### **CONTENT**

The bill would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to prescribe the distances, dependent on speed, that the operator of a vehicle would have to maintain from a snowplow. It also would prescribe a civil infraction for a violation of the distances.

Specifically, the operator of a vehicle could not follow a snowplow more closely than the following distances, as applicable:

- On a street or highway with a speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour, 200 feet.
- On a street or highway with a speed limit of 35 miles per hour or *less*, 75 feet.

These requirements would not apply when the operator of a vehicle was legally overtaking or passing a snowplow.

If a snowplow had stopped at or in an intersection and the operator of a vehicle that was not a snowplow approached it from the rear, the operator of the vehicle would have to stop at least 20 feet from the snowplow and remain stopped until the snowplow resumed motion and vacated the intersection

MCL 257.643b

### **BRIEF RATIONALE**

According to testimony before the Senate Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, worsening winter conditions have led to an increase in the number of traffic accidents between snow plows and personal vehicles. These accidents result from a variety of factors, including poor visibility and icy roads, which may make it difficult for a driver to break in time to avoid a collision. Accordingly, some have suggested that a driver be required to maintain a certain distance from an active snowplow.

Legislative Analyst: Abby Schneider

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Due to the fine for the civil infraction, the bill would potentially increase revenue for the State and local governmental units.

Date Completed: 11-8-23

Fiscal Analyst: Bobby Canell