A bill to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled "Michigan vehicle code," by amending section 255 (MCL 257.255), as amended by 1987 PA 34.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

Sec. 255. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a person shall not operate, nor shall an owner knowingly permit to be operated, upon any highway, a vehicle required to be registered under this act unless there is attached to and displayed on the vehicle, as required by this chapter, a valid registration plate issued for the vehicle by the department for the current registration year. A registration plate shall not be required upon any wrecked or disabled vehicle, or vehicle destined for repair or junking, which is being transported or drawn upon a highway by a wrecker or a registered motor vehicle.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person
who violates subsection (1) is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or by a
fine of not more than $100.00, or both. responsible for a civil infraction. However, if the vehicle is a commercial vehicle
which is required to be registered according to the schedule of
elected gross vehicle weights under section 801(1)(k), the fine
which may be imposed shall not exceed person is guilty of a
misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90 days
or a fine of not more than $500.00, or both.

(3) A person who operates a vehicle licensed under the
international registration plan and does not have a valid
registration due to nonpayment of the apportioned fee is guilty
of a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90
days, or by a fine of not more than $100.00, or both. In
addition, a police officer may impound the vehicle until a valid
registration is obtained. If the vehicle is impounded, the
towing and storage costs of the vehicle, and the care or
preservation of the load in the vehicle shall be the owner's
responsibility. Vehicles impounded shall be subject to a lien in
the amount of the apportioned fee and any fine and costs incurred
under this subsection, subject to a valid lien of prior record.
If the apportioned fee, fine, and costs are not paid within 90
days after impoundment, then following a hearing before the judge
or magistrate who imposed the fine and costs, the judge or
magistrate shall certify the unpaid judgment to the prosecuting
attorney of the county in which the violation occurred. The
prosecuting attorney shall enforce the lien by foreclosure sale
in accordance with the procedure authorized by law for chattel mortgage foreclosures.

Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect September 1, 2003.