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SFA

BILL ANALYSIS

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Senate Bill 1000 (as introduced 1-23-02)
Sponsor: Senator Bill Bullard, Jr.
Committee: Transportation and Tourism

Date Completed: 2-19-02

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to establish a 12-hour deadline for the removal of abandoned vehicles from a State trunk line highway.

Currently, if a vehicle abandoned on a State highway is not removed within 24 hours after the date a notice was affixed to the vehicle by a police agency, the vehicle is considered abandoned and may be taken into custody. The bill would change that deadline to 12 hours.

MCL 257.252a

BACKGROUND

Public Act 306 of 2000 amended the Michigan Vehicle Code to establish a 24-hour deadline for the removal of abandoned vehicles from a State trunk line highway. Previously, the deadline was 48 hours (which it still is for vehicles abandoned on private property or other public property). The Act required the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) to conduct a Statewide study in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Department of State Police to evaluate the impact of the change from 48 hours to 24 hours. The study had to be completed and returned to the chairpersons of the Senate and House standing committees that consider transportation and traffic-related issues within 12 months after the Act's effective date (i.e., by October 16, 2001). The study was to be based on the number of vehicles being towed, the value of the vehicles, the number of vehicles sold at public sale, and the number of owners who requested a hearing and the outcome of that hearing. The Act also requires the Senate and House standing committees and SEMCOG, MDOT, and the State Police to review the study and determine if it is feasible for the time a vehicle remains on a State trunk line highway before it is determined abandoned to be reduced from 24 hours to 12 hours.

Legislative Analyst: Nobuko Nagata

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Fiscal Analyst: Bill Bowerman

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

