

Legislative Analysis



SNOW PLOW LIGHTS

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House Bill 4146 (Substitute H-1)

Sponsor: Rep. Jud Gilbert, II

Committee: Transportation

Complete to 1-18-12

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4146 AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON 11-9-2011

House Bill 4146 would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to prohibit a person from operating a commercial snow removal vehicle to remove snow or ice on a public street or highway or in a public parking lot unless the vehicle was operated with at least one flashing, rotating, or oscillating yellow or amber light that was clearly visible in a 360-degree arc from a distance of 500 feet when in use.

A person who owned or leased a commercial snow removal vehicle could not knowingly allow a person to operate it in violation of the bill.

A violation would be a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for up to 90 days or a fine of not more than \$500, or both.

The bill would define "commercial snow removal vehicle" as a vehicle equipped with a plow or other device that is used to remove snow or ice for payment or other remuneration. "Person" would mean an individual, partnership, governmental entity, or other legal entity.

An additional provision in the bill specifies that any unauthorized person who operates an authorized emergency vehicle in violation of the terms of authorization is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by up to 90 days imprisonment or a fine of not more than \$100, or both.

MCL 257.698

FISCAL IMPACT:

Because there are no data to indicate how many snow removal vehicles would not comply with these regulations, the bill would have an indeterminate impact on local units of governments. The courts may incur additional costs due to the added caseload related to prosecuting these offenses. Local governments would incur the costs of incarceration in local facilities and misdemeanor probation supervision, which vary by county. Additional penal fine revenue would benefit public libraries.

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