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Senate Bill 555 (as introduced 6-30-11)
Sponsor: Senator Goeff Hansen
Committee: Transportation

Date Completed: 1-17-12

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to do the following:

- **Require the Secretary of State (SOS) to develop a fund-raising license plate recognizing Michigan trails and greenways.**
- **Create the "Michigan Trails and Greenways Fund" and require donations for the plates to be deposited into the Fund.**
- **Require the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance to use money from the Fund to promote the development and establishment of a statewide trail network.**

Specifically, the bill would require the SOS to develop under Section 811e and issue under Section 811f a fund-raising plate recognizing Michigan trails and greenways. The SOS would have to design the plate in conjunction with the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance.

(Section 811e prescribes a start-up fee of \$15,000 for each new authorized fund-raising license plate. The fee must be deposited in the Transportation Administration Collection Fund to be used for the cost of creating, producing, and issuing fund-raising plates. The SOS may not develop or issue a new fund-raising plate unless a public act authorizing the plate identifies its purpose, creates a nonprofit fund or designates an existing nonprofit fund to receive the money received through the sale of the plate, and names the person or entity responsible for administering the fund.

Section 811f prescribes a \$25 donation and \$10 service fee, in addition to the regular vehicle registration tax, for an original fund-raising plate. For a renewal, an applicant must pay a \$10 donation in addition to the registration tax.)

The bill would create the Michigan Trails and Greenways Fund within the State Treasury. The State Treasurer could receive money or other assets from any source for deposit into the Fund. The Treasurer would have to direct investment of the Fund, and credit to it any interest and earnings. Money in the Fund at the close of the fiscal year would remain in the Fund and would not lapse to the General Fund.

The SOS would have to transfer the donation money from the sale of the proposed fund-raising plate to the State Treasurer, who would have to credit the money to the Fund.

The State Treasurer would have to disburse money in the Fund on a quarterly basis to the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance, which would have to use the money to develop and promote the establishment of a statewide trail network as described in Section 72114(1) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act.

(That section requires the Department of Natural Resources to establish a plan for a statewide trail network that includes Michigan trailways, pack and saddle trailways, and other recreational use trails.)

The SOS would be the administrator of the Fund for auditing purposes.

Proposed MCL 257.811s

Legislative Analyst: Julie Cassidy

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would create a start-up cost to the Department of State. The start-up fee of \$15,000 prescribed in the Code could be paid to the Department of State from the Michigan Trails and Greenways Fund proposed in the bill; however, the bill does not include such a requirement. The revenue generated from the fund-raising license plate established under the bill would be deposited into the proposed Michigan Trails and Greenways Fund, after which the State Treasurer would disburse payments from the Fund on a quarterly basis to the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance.

The bill would have no fiscal impact on local government.

Fiscal Analyst: Joe Carrasco

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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.