

**SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 5688**

A bill to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled
"Michigan vehicle code,"
by amending section 255 (MCL 257.255), as amended by 2020 PA 127.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 255. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a
2 person shall not operate, nor shall an owner knowingly permit to be
3 operated, upon any highway, a vehicle required to be registered
4 under this act unless, except as otherwise provided in this
5 subsection, no later than 30 days after the vehicle is registered
6 or the vehicle's registration is renewed, a valid registration
7 plate issued for the vehicle by the department for the current
8 registration year is attached to and displayed on the vehicle as
9 required by this chapter. For purposes of this subsection, a



1 printed or electronic copy of a valid registration or verification
2 of a valid registration through the ~~L.E.I.N.~~ **law enforcement**
3 **information network** is proof that the vehicle is registered or that
4 the vehicle's registration has been renewed. A registration plate
5 is not required for a wrecked or disabled vehicle, or vehicle
6 destined for repair or junking, that is being transported or drawn
7 on a highway by a wrecker or a registered motor vehicle. The 30-day
8 period described in this subsection does not apply to the first
9 registration of a vehicle after a transfer of ownership or to a
10 transfer registration under section 809.

11 (2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person who
12 violates subsection (1) is responsible for a civil infraction.
13 However, if the vehicle is a commercial vehicle ~~which~~ **that** is
14 required to be registered according to the schedule of elected
15 gross vehicle weights under section 801(1)(k), the person is guilty
16 of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90
17 days or a fine of not more than \$500.00, or both.

18 (3) A person who operates a vehicle licensed under the
19 international registration plan and does not have a valid
20 registration due to nonpayment of the apportioned fee is ~~guilty of~~
21 ~~a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90~~
22 ~~days, or by a fine of not more than \$100.00, or both.~~ **responsible**
23 **for a civil infraction.** In addition, a police officer may impound
24 the vehicle until a valid registration is obtained. If the vehicle
25 is impounded, the towing and storage costs of the vehicle, and the
26 care or preservation of the load in the vehicle are the owner's
27 responsibility. Vehicles impounded are subject to a lien in the
28 amount of the apportioned fee and any fine and costs incurred under
29 this subsection, subject to a valid lien of prior record. If the



1 apportioned fee, fine, and costs are not paid within 90 days after
2 impoundment, then following a hearing before the judge or
3 magistrate who imposed the fine and costs, the judge or magistrate
4 shall certify the unpaid judgment to the prosecuting attorney of
5 the county in which the violation occurred. The prosecuting
6 attorney shall enforce the lien by foreclosure sale in accordance
7 with the procedure authorized by law for chattel mortgage
8 foreclosures.

9 (4) A noncommercial vehicle registration described in
10 subsection (1) that expires on or after March 1, 2020 but is
11 renewed on or before September 30, 2020 is not in violation of this
12 section. A commercial vehicle registration described in subsection
13 (1) that expires on or after March 1, 2020 but is renewed on or
14 before September 30, 2020 is not in violation of this section.

15 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect
16 unless House Bill No. 5802 of the 100th Legislature is enacted into
17 law.

