

Legislative Analysis



ALLOW TRACTORS AND FARM EQUIPMENT TO CROSS THE MACKINAC BRIDGE

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4165 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Steven Johnson

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

House Bill 4872 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Beau Matthew LaFave

Committee: Transportation
Complete to 12-5-21

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4165 would amend 1952 PA 214, which governs the Mackinac Bridge Authority, to require the authority to allow the driver of a *farm tractor* or *implement of husbandry* to pay a toll or charge and cross the Mackinac Bridge if the tractor or implement of husbandry meets both of the following:

- It complies with all the applicable requirements of the Michigan Vehicle Code.
- It is able to accelerate to and maintain the minimum speed required to cross the bridge.

Farm tractor would mean a motor vehicle designed and used primarily as a farm implement for drawing plows, mowing machines, and other implements of husbandry.

Implement of husbandry would mean a vehicle or trailer in use for the exclusive function of serving agricultural, horticultural, or livestock operations. It would include a farm tractor, self-propelled application-type vehicle, farm wagon, or farm trailer, a vehicle or trailer adapted for lifting or carrying another implement of husbandry being used in agricultural production, or any substantially similar equipment used to transport products necessary for agricultural production.

MCL 254.322

House Bill 4872 would amend the Motor Vehicle Code to provide speed and engine size exceptions for an *implement of husbandry* (defined as above) that is being driven on a limited access highway for the purpose of crossing the Mackinac Bridge.

The code now prohibits a person from operating a farm tractor or other self-propelled farm implement on a limited access freeway in Michigan.

In addition, unless another limit is set, the code now provides that the default minimum speed limit on all limited access freeways is 55 miles per hour.

Under the bill, the above prohibition and minimum speed limit would not apply to an implement of husbandry operating on a limited access freeway between the Mackinac Bridge and the freeway exits and entrances closest to the bridge for the purpose of crossing the bridge.

MCL 257.627 and MCL 257.679a

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact of the bills cannot be readily determined at this time.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.