

Legislative Analysis



VEHICLE REGISTRATION OF DECEASED OWNER

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House Bill 4674 as reported from committee
Sponsor: Rep. Pat Outman
Committee: Transportation and Infrastructure
Complete to 8-13-25

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

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4674 would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to allow the next of kin of a deceased vehicle owner to renew the vehicle's registration once under certain circumstances.

Currently, if the **owner** of a registered vehicle dies, the license plate assigned to the vehicle is a valid registration through the end of the registration year or until ownership of the vehicle is transferred by the personal representative of the owner's estate.

Owner means any of the following:

- A person who holds the legal title of a vehicle.
- A person who is renting a motor vehicle or has exclusive use of the vehicle, under a lease or otherwise, for more than 30 days.
- A person who has the immediate right of possession of a vehicle under an installment sale contract.

Under the bill, the license plate would be valid until the *soonest* of the following:

- The end of the registration year.
- Ownership of the vehicle is transferred by the personal representative of the owner's estate or the secured party.
- If the owner was a lessee of the vehicle, the lessee is changed.
- The registration is renewed by the owner's next of kin as provided below.

The bill would allow the vehicle's registration to be renewed one time by the vehicle owner's next of kin. However, the next of kin could not renew the registration if it had been expired for six months or longer on the date of the owner's death. In addition, the next of kin could not renew the registration after any of the following:

- One year after the secretary of state was notified of the owner's death.
- The date the personal representative of the owner's estate or the secured party transfers ownership of the vehicle.
- If the owner was a lessee of the vehicle, the date the lessee is changed.

MCL 257.236

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would have no fiscal impact on the state or local units of government. All service fees currently required, including the \$8 registration service fee and \$10 registration transfer fee,

would also be required under the bill. It is not anticipated that the bill would significantly affect the number of vehicle registration transactions and corresponding state revenues.

POSITIONS:

The Department of State indicated support for the bill. (7-15-25)

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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.