



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

Washington Square Building, Suite 1025
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Phone: 517/373-6466

TEMPORARY BOAT TRAILER REGISTRATION

House Bill 4693 as enrolled
Second Analysis (7-15-89)

Sponsor: Rep. Bart Stupak
House Committee: Marine Affairs & Port Development
Senate Committee: State Affairs, Tourism &
Transportation

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

Public Act 56 of 1988 included provisions for a 15-day temporary permit for certain new boats. The provision was included to allow new boat owners to use their boats upon purchase just as new car owners are allowed to use their cars upon purchase through a temporary dealer's registration until the permanent registration process is completed through the secretary of state's office. However, many new boats require a trailer to transport the boat to the water. Currently, there are provisions for boat dealers who sell trailers weighing more than 2,500 pounds to issue temporary registrations, but there are no provisions for the issuance of temporary registrations for trailers weighing less than 2,500 pounds. In addition, the price of trailer registrations has doubled within the past two years, and there are no provisions for the purchase of a six month seasonal registration for trailers and semitrailers used to haul small boats or other recreational equipment.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

Under the Michigan Vehicle Code, dealers of vehicles required to be titled are required to apply for a new title within fifteen days after delivering a vehicle to a purchaser and are required to transfer or secure registration plates and a certificate of registration for the vehicle in the name of the purchaser. The bill would amend the code to include under the requirement persons engaged in the sale of vessels required to be numbered by the Marine Safety Act who were delivering boat trailers weighing less than 2,500 pounds to a purchaser. The bill would also allow these persons to be issued temporary registration plates or markers for use by purchasers of boat trailers weighing less than 2,500 pounds. The bill would require the secretary of state's office to designate the form to be used in the case of temporary registration plates or markers used for boat trailers. The bill would also establish a seasonal registration for use on trailers and semitrailers weighing less than 1,501 pounds which would be valid for six months after being issued and upon payment of half the full registration fee.

MCL 257.217 and 257.226a

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

According to the secretary of state's office, the bill is expected to result in a revenue loss that could easily reach \$1 million. However, the exact loss to the state cannot be determined because the number of people who will take advantage of the seasonal six month registration is unknown. (7-14-89)

ARGUMENTS:

For:

When a person buys a car from an automobile dealer, he or she can drive it immediately upon purchase. However, persons who purchase boats on the weekends or after

secretary of state's offices close during the week cannot use their boats upon purchase if the boat must be transported on a trailer weighing less than 2,500 pounds. The bill will address this situation by providing for temporary registrations to enable all new boat owners to use their boats upon purchase just as new car owners are able to use their cars upon purchase. The bill will also help cut down on registration costs for recreational boaters by establishing a six month registration. The seasonal registration will allow boat owners to obtain registrations for trailers during the seasons when the trailers are actually in use.

H.B. 4693 (7-15-89)