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CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS; FEE WAIVERS

House Bill 4765

Sponsor: Rep. James McNutt

Committee: Transportation

Complete to 8-21-97

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4765 AS INTRODUCED 5-8-97

House Bill 4765 would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to require that the secretary of state provide record-check services free to any organization that is exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The bill also would allow a fee to be charged if a tax-exempt organization requested a copy of a record in addition to the record check.

Under Public Acts 99-102 of 1997, the secretary of state is authorized to establish a commercial look-up service to provide individual records for purposes that are described in federal and state laws that have been enacted to protect citizens' privacy. The law specifies that for each record look up, the secretary of state would charge a fee specified annually by the legislature, or if the legislature did not specify a fee, a market-based price established by the department. (Historically, that fee has been set at \$6.55 per look-up, a fee authorized annually in the boilerplate of the general government appropriations act. Overall, the sale of records generates more than \$25 million each year, financing about one-sixth of the Department of State's operating costs.)

MCL 257.207

Analyst: J. Hunault

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