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SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATES

House Bill 5040

Sponsor: Rep. Jason Allen

House Bill 5041

Sponsor: Rep. Scott Shackleton

House Bill 5042

Sponsor: Rep. Lauren Hager

Committee: Transportation

Complete to 10-28-99

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILLS 5040, 5041, AND 5042 AS INTRODUCED 10-26-99

House Bills 5040, 5041, and 5042 would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code (MCL 257. 811n, 257.811k, and 257.811i) to require the secretary of state to develop and upon application, to issue a state-sponsored agricultural heritage fund-raising registration plate and collector plate, a lighthouse fund-raising registration plate and collector plate, and a state-sponsored water quality fund-raising registration plate and collector plate, respectively. The bills are tie-barred to Senate Bill 826, the enabling legislation that would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to permit the secretary of state to develop a Michigan university fund-raising registration plate and a matching collector plate, limited-term registration plates, and up to six state-sponsored fund-raising registration plates and matching collector plates.

In addition to being tie-barred to these three House bills, Senate Bill 826 also is tie-barred to Senate Bills 827, 828, and 829 and Senate Bill 770 which would allow state-sponsored specialty fund-raising plates for the Children's Trust Fund, the Michigan Veterans Memorial Fund, and critical wildlife habitat.

House Bills 5040, 5041, and 5042 would go into effect October 1, 2000. A detailed explanation of each bill follows.

House Bill 5040 would require that the agricultural heritage fund-raising registration plate and a matching state-sponsored collector plate be of a design specified in section 811e of Senate Bill 826. Further, it would require that donations collected from plate sales be transferred by the secretary of state to the state treasurer, who in turn would be required to disburse the donation money to the Michigan Future Farmers of America Foundation Endowment Fund administered by Michigan State University for the purpose of the Vision 2000 Public/Private Initiative.

Under the bill, "state-sponsored agricultural heritage fund-raising registration plate" would mean a registration plate containing a specialized design pertaining to the agriculture of this state.

House Bill 5041 would require that the Michigan lighthouse fund-raising registration plate and a matching state-sponsored collector plate be of a design determined by the secretary of state. Further, it would establish a Michigan lighthouse preservation grant fund as a separate fund in the Department of Treasury, for which the state treasurer could receive money or other assets from any source. Under the bill, the state treasurer would direct investment of the fund, credit interest and earnings from fund investments to the fund, and annually present to the secretary of state an accounting of the amount of money in the fund. Money in the fund at the close of a fiscal year would remain in the fund and not lapse to the general fund.

Under House Bill 5041, the secretary of state would administer the fund and could expend money from it to make discretionary historical grants to preserve Michigan lighthouses. The secretary of state could not use more than 10 percent of the funds for administrative or grant coordination costs. Grants could be awarded for the preparation of plans and specifications for restoration and stabilization, and for stabilization, rehabilitation, or other preservation work on a Michigan lighthouse, but grants could not be awarded for operational purposes. Under the bill, the secretary of state would be required to establish and apply eligibility and scoring requirements when allocating grants funds. To award grants, the secretary of state would be required to solicit applications from eligible recipients, score applications based on the established criteria, and award grants through executed contracts. The bill would require that all plans and work performed on a grant be consistent with the United States Secretary of the Interior's standards for rehabilitation and guidelines for rehabilitating historic buildings.

Further, House Bill 5041 would require that donations collected from plate sales be transferred by the secretary of state to the state treasurer, who in turn would be required to credit the donation money to the Michigan Lighthouse Preservation Grant Fund. Under the bill, a "state-sponsored lighthouse fund-raising registration plate" would mean a registration plate containing a specialized design pertaining to historic Michigan lighthouses.

House Bill 5042 would require that the water quality fund-raising registration plate and a matching state-sponsored collector plate be of a design determined by the secretary of state.

Under House Bill 5042, the Department of Environmental Quality would establish and administer a Water Quality Protection Fund Grant Program, set its policies, and could promulgate rules to implement the program. The program would provide grants to local units of government for the purpose of protecting the water quality of the Great Lakes and of inland lakes, rivers, and streams.

Further, House Bill 5042 would establish a water quality protection fund as a separate fund in the Department of Treasury, for which the state treasurer could receive money or other assets from any source. Under the bill, the state treasurer would direct investment of the fund, and credit interest and earnings from fund investments to the fund. Money in the fund at the close of a fiscal year would remain in the fund and not lapse to the general fund. Money from the fund could be expended, upon appropriation, only for the purpose of protecting the water quality of the Great Lakes, and of inland lakes, rivers, and streams.

Under the bill, “local unit of government” would mean a county, city, village, or township; an agency of a county, city, village, or township; the office of a county drain commissioner; a soil conservation district; a watershed council; a local health department; a community college or junior college; a public or private four-year institution of higher education located in the state; and an authority or other public body created by or pursuant to state law. “Water quality fund-raising registration plate” would mean a registration plate containing a specialized design pertaining to the water quality of this state.

Analyst: J. Hunault

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