

HOUSE BILL NO. 4146

February 04, 2021, Introduced by Reps. LaGrand, Yancey and Filler and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

A bill to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled
"Michigan vehicle code,"
by amending section 255 (MCL 257.255), as amended by 2020 PA 304.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 255. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a
2 person shall not operate, nor shall an owner knowingly permit to be
3 operated, upon any highway, a vehicle required to be registered
4 under this act unless, except as otherwise provided in this
5 subsection, no later than 30 days after the vehicle is registered

1 or the vehicle's registration is renewed, a valid registration
2 plate issued for the vehicle by the department for the current
3 registration year is attached to and displayed on the vehicle as
4 required by this chapter. For purposes of this subsection, a
5 printed or electronic copy of a valid registration or verification
6 of a valid registration through the ~~L.E.I.N.~~ **law enforcement**
7 **information network** is proof that the vehicle is registered or that
8 the vehicle's registration has been renewed. A registration plate
9 is not required for a wrecked or disabled vehicle, or vehicle
10 destined for repair or junking, that is being transported or drawn
11 on a highway by a wrecker or a registered motor vehicle. The 30-day
12 period described in this subsection does not apply to the first
13 registration of a vehicle after a transfer of ownership or to a
14 transfer registration under section 809.

15 (2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person who
16 violates subsection (1) is responsible for a civil infraction.
17 However, if the vehicle is a commercial vehicle that is required to
18 be registered according to the schedule of elected gross vehicle
19 weights under section 801(1)(k), the person is guilty of a
20 misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90 days or
21 a fine of not more than \$500.00, or both.

22 (3) A person who operates a vehicle licensed under the
23 international registration plan and does not have a valid
24 registration due to nonpayment of the apportioned fee is ~~guilty of~~
25 ~~a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90~~
26 ~~days, or by a fine of not more than \$100.00, or both.~~ **responsible**
27 **for a civil infraction.** In addition, a police officer may impound
28 the vehicle until a valid registration is obtained. If the vehicle
29 is impounded, the towing and storage costs of the vehicle, and the

1 care or preservation of the load in the vehicle are the owner's
2 responsibility. Vehicles impounded are subject to a lien in the
3 amount of the apportioned fee and any fine and costs incurred under
4 this subsection, subject to a valid lien of prior record. If the
5 apportioned fee, fine, and costs are not paid within 90 days after
6 impoundment, then following a hearing before the judge or
7 magistrate who imposed the fine and costs, the judge or magistrate
8 shall certify the unpaid judgment to the prosecuting attorney of
9 the county in which the violation occurred. The prosecuting
10 attorney shall enforce the lien by foreclosure sale in accordance
11 with the procedure authorized by law for chattel mortgage
12 foreclosures.

13 (4) A noncommercial vehicle registration described in
14 subsection (1) that expires on or after March 1, 2020 but is
15 renewed on or before March 31, 2021 is not in violation of this
16 section. A commercial vehicle registration described in subsection
17 (1) that expires on or after March 1, 2020 but is renewed on or
18 before March 31, 2021 is not in violation of this section.

19 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect
20 unless Senate Bill No.____ or House Bill No. 4153 (request no.
21 01303'21) of the 101st Legislature is enacted into law.