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BILL ANALYSIS



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House Bill 4839 (Substitute S-3 as reported)
Sponsor: Representative Barbara Farrah
House Committee: Transportation
Senate Committee: Transportation

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to revise the procedures for removing and disposing of abandoned vehicles. Among other things, the bill would do the following:

- Require the owner of a vehicle that was considered abandoned and taken into custody by a police agency, to post a bond when requesting a hearing to contest the fact that the vehicle was abandoned or the towing and storage charges.
- Require the court, when a hearing was held regarding a vehicle removed from private property, to give notice to the private property owner, who would have the burden of showing that it had complied with the Code in reporting the vehicle.
- Require a police agency, if it authorized the removal of a vehicle from public or private property, to enter the vehicle into the Law Enforcement Information Network as abandoned at least seven days after authorizing the removal, unless the vehicle was believed to have been stolen, used in committing a crime, or involved in a crash.
- Permit a newspaper notification for a sale of abandoned vehicles to omit the description of the vehicles if it included a website address where a description could be found.

The bill also would do the following:

- Permit the Secretary of State (SOS) to issue a registration plate to a person that in the ordinary course of business picks up or delivers a commercial vehicle for aftermarket modification, service, or repair, or to a watercraft dealer or the owner of a marina for the purpose of moving or delivering a vessel or trailer under certain circumstances.
- Exempt from the Code's registration and certificate of title requirements a boat lift used to transport vessels between a marina or a body of water and a place of inland storage.
- Exempt from the Code's size and weight restrictions a boat lift or oversized hydraulic boat trailer owned and operated by a marina or watercraft dealer and used exclusively in a commercial boat storage operation.
- Permit a person to move or operate a boat lift of any width or an oversized hydraulic boat trailer owned and operated by a marina or watercraft dealer without obtaining a wide load permit under the Code.

MCL 257.11 et al.

Legislative Analyst: Curtis Walker

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Date Completed: 9-26-08

Fiscal Analyst: Bruce Baker/Joe Carrasco

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Analysis available @ <http://www.michiganlegislature.org>

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