

Act No. 539
Public Acts of 2008
Approved by the Governor
January 12, 2009
Filed with the Secretary of State
January 13, 2009
EFFECTIVE DATE: January 13, 2009

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
94TH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2008**

Introduced by Rep. Farrah

ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 4839

AN ACT to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled "An act to provide for the registration, titling, sale, transfer, and regulation of certain vehicles operated upon the public highways of this state or any other place open to the general public or generally accessible to motor vehicles and distressed vehicles; to provide for the licensing of dealers; to provide for the examination, licensing, and control of operators and chauffeurs; to provide for the giving of proof of financial responsibility and security by owners and operators of vehicles; to provide for the imposition, levy, and collection of specific taxes on vehicles, and the levy and collection of sales and use taxes, license fees, and permit fees; to provide for the regulation and use of streets and highways; to create certain funds; to provide penalties and sanctions for a violation of this act; to provide for civil liability of owners and operators of vehicles and service of process on residents and nonresidents; to provide for the levy of certain assessments; to provide for the enforcement of this act; to provide for the creation of and to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state and local agencies; to impose liability upon the state or local agencies; to provide appropriations for certain purposes; to repeal all other acts or parts of acts inconsistent with this act or contrary to this act; and to repeal certain parts of this act on a specific date," by amending sections 11, 208c, 216, 244, 252a, 252d, 252e, 252f, 252g, 252k, 252l, 625n, 716, 717, and 726 (MCL 257.11, 257.208c, 257.216, 257.244, 257.252a, 257.252d, 257.252e, 257.252f, 257.252g, 257.252k, 257.252l, 257.625n, 257.716, 257.717, and 257.726), section 11 as amended by 2003 PA 37, section 208c as amended by 2004 PA 362, sections 216 and 244 as amended by 2002 PA 642, sections 252a, 252d, 252e, and 252f as amended by 2004 PA 495, section 252g as amended and sections 252k and 252l as added by 2004 PA 493, section 625n as amended by 1998 PA 349, section 716 as amended by 2006 PA 509, and section 717 as amended by 2004 PA 511, and section 726 as amended by 1983 PA 107, and by adding section 79f.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Sec. 11. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, "dealer" means a person who is 1 or more of the following:

(a) A person who in a 12-month period did 1 or more of the following:

(i) Engaged in the business of purchasing, selling, exchanging, brokering, leasing, or dealing in vehicles of a type required to be titled under this act.

(ii) Engaged in the business of purchasing, selling, exchanging, brokering, or dealing in salvageable parts of 5 or more vehicles.

(iii) Engaged in the business of buying 5 or more vehicles to sell vehicle parts or process into scrap metal.

(b) A person engaged in the actual remanufacturing of engines or transmissions.

(2) There is a rebuttable presumption that a person who in a 12-month period buys and sells, exchanges, brokers, leases, or deals in 5 or more vehicles, or buys and sells, exchanges, brokers, or deals in salvageable parts for 5 or more vehicles, or buys 5 or more vehicles to sell vehicle parts or to process into scrap metal is engaged in a business of being a dealer as described in subsection (1).

(3) Dealer does not include any of the following:

(a) A financial institution, as defined in section 10 of 1909 PA 99, MCL 129.40, or an entity wholly owned by 1 or more financial institutions.

(b) A bank holding company.

(c) A person who buys or sells remanufactured vehicle engine and transmission salvageable vehicle parts or who receives in exchange used engines or transmissions if the primary business of the person is the selling of new vehicle parts and the person is not engaged in any other activity that requires a dealer license under this act.

(d) For purposes of dealer licensing, a person who negotiates the lease of a vehicle of a type required to be titled under this act for a lease term of less than 120 days.

(e) A person whose business is the financing of the purchase, sale, or lease of vehicles of a type required to be titled under this act and that is not otherwise engaged in activities of a dealer as described in subsection (1).

(f) An employee or agent of a dealer acting in the scope of his or her employment or agency.

(g) An insurer, as defined in section 106 of the insurance code of 1956, 1956 PA 218, MCL 500.106.

(h) A person engaged in leasing vehicles solely for commercial or other nonhousehold use.

(i) A lessor selling 1 or more off lease vehicles.

(j) A person who has received a vehicle under section 252g(3)(a) for the purpose of selling that vehicle to a dealer licensed under this act.

Sec. 79f. "Boat lift" means a vehicle owned and operated by a marina or watercraft dealer in a commercial boat storage operation with a framework designed to surround or straddle a boat and lift the boat from water or a storage space using a sling and hoisting mechanism. A boat lift shall be specifically designed for and used exclusively to transport a boat between a place of storage and a marina or in and around a marina. Boat lift does not include a boat trailer designed for normal or routine transportation of a watercraft.

Sec. 208c. (1) Except as provided in this section and in section 232, personal information in a record maintained under this act shall not be disclosed, unless the person requesting the information furnishes proof of identity satisfactory to the secretary of state and certifies that the personal information requested will be used for a permissible purpose identified in this section or in section 232. However, highly restricted personal information shall be used and disclosed only as expressly permitted in section 307 or as otherwise expressly provided by law.

(2) Personal information in a record maintained under this act shall be disclosed by the secretary of state if required to carry out the purposes of federal law or federal regulations.

(3) Personal information in a record maintained under this act may be disclosed by the secretary of state as follows:

(a) For use by a federal, state, or local governmental agency, including a court or law enforcement agency, in carrying out the agency's functions, or by a private person or entity acting on behalf of a governmental agency in carrying out the agency's functions.

(b) For use in connection with matters of motor vehicle and driver safety or auto theft; motor vehicle emissions; motor vehicle product alterations, recalls, or advisories; performance monitoring of motor vehicles; motor vehicle market research activities, including survey research; and the removal of nonowner records from the original records of motor vehicle manufacturers.

(c) For use in the normal course of business by a legitimate business, including the agents, employees, and contractors of the business, but only to verify the accuracy of personal information submitted by an individual to the business or its agents, employees, or contractors, and if the information as so submitted is no longer correct, to obtain the correct information, for the sole purpose of preventing fraud by pursuing legal remedies against, or recovering on a debt against, the individual.

(d) For use in connection with a civil, criminal, administrative, or arbitration proceeding in a federal, state, or local court or governmental agency or before a self-regulatory body, including use for service of process, investigation in anticipation of litigation, and the execution or enforcement of judgments and orders, or pursuant to an order of a federal, state, or local court, an administrative agency, or a self-regulatory body.

(e) For use in legitimate research activities and in preparing statistical reports for commercial, scholarly, or academic purposes by a bona fide research organization, if the personal information is not published, redisclosed, or used to contact individuals.

(f) For use by an insurer or insurance support organization, or by a self-insured entity, or its agents, employees, or contractors, in connection with claims investigating activity, antifraud activity, rating, or underwriting.

(g) For use in providing notice to the owner of an abandoned, towed, or impounded vehicle or for use by the custodian of a vehicle that is considered an abandoned vehicle as defined in sections 252a, 252b, and 252d.

(h) For use either by a private detective or private investigator licensed under the professional investigator licensure act, 1965 PA 285, MCL 338.821 to 338.851, or by a private security guard agency or alarm system contractor licensed under the private security business and security alarm act, 1968 PA 330, MCL 338.1051 to 338.1083, only for a purpose permitted under this section.

(i) For use by an employer, or the employer's agent or insurer, to obtain or verify information relating either to the holder of a commercial driver license that is required under federal law or to the holder of a chauffeur's license that is required under chapter 3.

(j) For use by a car rental business, or its employees, agents, contractors, or service firms, for the purpose of making rental decisions.

(k) For use in connection with the operation of private toll transportation facilities.

(l) For use by a news medium in the preparation and dissemination of a report related in part or in whole to the operation of a motor vehicle or public safety. "News medium" includes a newspaper, a magazine or periodical published at regular intervals, a news service, a broadcast network, a television station, a radio station, a cablecaster, or an entity employed by any of the foregoing.

(m) For any use by an individual requesting information pertaining to himself or herself or requesting in writing that the secretary of state provide information pertaining to himself or herself to the individual's designee. A request for disclosure to a designee, however, may be submitted only by the individual.

(4) Medical and disability information in a record maintained under this act may be used and disclosed for purposes of subsection (3)(a), (d), or (m).

Sec. 216. Every motor vehicle, pickup camper, trailer coach, trailer, semitrailer, and pole trailer, when driven or moved upon a highway, is subject to the registration and certificate of title provisions of this act except the following:

(a) A vehicle driven or moved upon a highway in conformance with the provisions of this act relating to manufacturers, transporters, dealers, or nonresidents.

(b) A vehicle that is driven or moved upon a highway only for the purpose of crossing that highway from 1 property to another.

(c) An implement of husbandry.

(d) Special mobile equipment for which the secretary of state may issue a special registration to an individual, partnership, corporation, or association not licensed as a dealer to identify the equipment when being moved over the streets and highways upon payment of the required fee.

(e) A vehicle that is propelled exclusively by electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires though not operated upon rails.

(f) Any vehicle subject to registration, but owned by the government of the United States.

(g) A certificate of title need not be obtained for a trailer, semitrailer, or pole trailer weighing less than 2,500 pounds.

(h) A vehicle driven or moved upon the highway only for the purpose of securing a weight receipt from a weighmaster as is required in section 801, or for obtaining a vehicle inspection by a law enforcement agency before titling or registration, and then only by the most direct route.

(i) A certificate of title need not be obtained for a vehicle owned by a manufacturer or dealer and held for sale or lease, even though incidentally moved on the highway or used for purposes of testing or demonstration.

(j) A bus or school bus, as defined in section 4b or 57, that is not self-propelled and used exclusively as a construction shanty.

(k) A certificate of title need not be obtained for a moped.

(l) For 3 days immediately following the date of a properly assigned title or signed lease agreement from any person other than a vehicle dealer, a registration need not be obtained for a vehicle driven or moved upon the highway for the sole purpose of transporting the vehicle in the most direct route from the place of purchase or lease to a place of storage if the driver has in his or her possession the assigned title showing the date of sale or lease agreement showing the date of the lease.

(m) A certificate of registration need not be obtained for a pickup camper, but a certificate of title shall be obtained.

(n) A new motor vehicle driven or moved upon the highway only for the purpose of moving the vehicle from an accident site to a storage location if the vehicle was being transported on a railroad car or semitrailer that was involved in a disabling accident.

(o) A boat lift used for transporting vessels between a marina or a body of water and a place of inland storage.

Sec. 244. (1) A manufacturer owning a vehicle of a type otherwise required to be registered under this act may operate or move the vehicle upon a street or highway primarily for the purposes of transporting or testing or in

connection with a golf tournament or a public civic event, if the vehicle displays, in the manner prescribed in section 225, 1 special plate approved by the secretary of state.

(2) A producer of a vehicle subcomponent system essential to the operation of the vehicle or the safety of an occupant may operate or move a motor vehicle upon a street or highway solely to transport or test the subcomponent system if the motor vehicle displays, in the manner prescribed in section 225, 1 special plate approved by the secretary of state. To be eligible for the special plate, the subcomponent system producer must be either a recognized subcomponent system producer or must be a subcomponent system producer under contract with a vehicle manufacturer.

(3) A dealer owning a vehicle of a type otherwise required to be registered under this act may operate or move the vehicle upon a street or highway without registering the vehicle if the vehicle displays, in the manner prescribed in section 225, 1 special plate issued to the owner by the secretary of state. As used in this subsection, "dealer" includes an employee, servant, or agent of the dealer.

(4) Solely to deliver the vehicle, a transporter may operate or move a vehicle of a type otherwise required to be registered under this act upon a street or highway if the vehicle displays, in the manner prescribed in section 225, a special plate issued to the transporter under this chapter.

(5) A licensee shall not use a special plate described in this section on service cars or wreckers operated as an adjunct of a licensee's business. A manufacturer, transporter, or dealer making or permitting any unauthorized use of a special plate under this chapter forfeits the right to use special plates and the secretary of state, after notice and a hearing, may suspend or cancel the right to use special plates and require that the special plates be surrendered to or repossessed by the state.

(6) A transporter shall furnish a sufficient surety bond or policy of insurance as protection for public liability and property damage as may be required by the secretary of state.

(7) The secretary of state shall determine the number of plates a manufacturer, dealer, or transporter reasonably needs in his or her business.

(8) If a vehicle that is required to be registered under this act is leased or sold, the vendee or lessee is permitted to operate the vehicle upon a street or highway for not more than 72 hours after taking possession if the vehicle has a dealer plate attached as provided in this section. The application for registration shall be made in the name of the vendee or lessee before the vehicle is used. The dealer and the vendee or lessee are jointly responsible for the return of the dealer plate to the dealer within 72 hours, and the failure of the vendee or lessee to return or the vendor or lessor to use due diligence to procure the dealer plate is a misdemeanor, and in addition the license of the dealer may be revoked. While using a dealer's plate, a vendee or lessee shall have in his or her possession proof that clearly indicates the date of sale or lease of the motor vehicle.

(9) A vehicle owned by a dealer and bearing the dealer's plate may be driven upon a street or highway for demonstration purposes by a prospective buyer or lessee for a period of 72 hours.

(10) The secretary of state may issue a registration plate upon application and payment of the proper fee to an individual, partnership, corporation, or association that in the ordinary course of business has occasion to legally pick up or deliver a commercial motor vehicle being driven to a facility to undergo aftermarket modification, or to repair or service a vehicle, or to persons defined as watercraft dealers under part 801 of the natural resources and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.80101 to 324.80199, or to the owner of a marina for the purpose of delivering a vessel or trailer to a purchaser, to transport a vessel between a body of water and a place of storage, to transport a vessel or trailer to and from a boat show or exposition, to repair, service, or store a vessel or trailer, or to return a vessel or trailer to the customer after repair, service, or storage. A registration plate issued under this subsection shall be used to move the vehicle or trailer.

Sec. 252a. (1) A person shall not abandon a vehicle in this state. It is presumed that the last titled owner of the vehicle is responsible for abandoning the vehicle unless the person provides a record of sale as that term is defined in section 240. A person who violates this subsection and who fails to redeem the vehicle before disposition of the vehicle under section 252g is responsible for a civil infraction and shall be ordered to pay a civil fine of \$50.00.

(2) As used in this section and sections 252a through 252l, "abandoned vehicle" means either of the following:

(a) A vehicle that has remained on private property without the consent of the owner.

(b) A vehicle that has remained on public property for a period of not less than 48 hours, or on a state trunk line highway as described in section 1 of 1951 PA 51, MCL 247.651, as follows:

(i) If a valid registration plate is affixed to the vehicle, for a period of not less than 18 hours.

(ii) If a valid registration plate is not affixed to the vehicle.

(3) If a vehicle has remained on public property for the period of time described in subsection (2)(b) so that it qualifies as abandoned, a police agency having jurisdiction over the vehicle or the agency's designee shall determine whether the vehicle has been reported stolen and may affix a written notice to the vehicle. The written notice shall contain the following information:

(a) The date and time the notice was affixed.

- (b) The name and address of the police agency taking the action.
 - (c) The name and badge number of the police officer affixing the notice.
 - (d) The date and time the vehicle may be taken into custody and stored at the owner's expense or scrapped if the vehicle is not removed.
 - (e) The year, make, and vehicle identification number of the vehicle, if available.
- (4) If the vehicle is an abandoned vehicle, the police agency or the agency's designee may have the towing agency take the vehicle into custody.
- (5) A police agency that has received a vehicle taken into custody as abandoned shall do all of the following:
- (a) Recheck to determine if the vehicle has been reported stolen.
 - (b) Within 24 hours after the vehicle is taken into custody, enter the vehicle as abandoned into the law enforcement information network, and notify the secretary of state through the law enforcement information network that the vehicle has been taken into custody as abandoned. Each notification shall contain the following information:
 - (i) The year, make, and vehicle identification number of the vehicle, if available.
 - (ii) The address or approximate location from which the vehicle was taken into custody.
 - (iii) The date on which the vehicle was taken into custody.
 - (iv) The name and address of the police agency that had the vehicle taken into custody.
 - (v) The name and business address of the custodian of the vehicle.
 - (vi) The name of the court that has jurisdiction over the case.
 - (c) Within 7 days after receiving notice under subdivision (b) that the vehicle has been taken into custody, the secretary of state shall do both of the following:
 - (i) Send to the last titled owner and secured party, as shown by the records of the secretary of state as described in section 221 or 237, by first-class mail or personal service, notice that the vehicle is considered abandoned. The form for the notice shall be furnished by the secretary of state. Each notice form shall contain the following information:
 - (A) The year, make, and vehicle identification number of the vehicle if available.
 - (B) The address or approximate location from which the vehicle was taken into custody.
 - (C) The date on which the vehicle was taken into custody.
 - (D) The name and address of the police agency that had the vehicle taken into custody.
 - (E) The name and business address of the custodian of the vehicle.
 - (F) The procedure to redeem the vehicle.
 - (G) The procedure to contest the fact that the vehicle is considered abandoned or the reasonableness of the towing fees and daily storage fees.
 - (H) A form petition that the owner may file in person or by mail with the specified court that requests a hearing on the police agency's action.
 - (I) A warning that the failure to redeem the vehicle or to request a hearing within 20 days after the date of the notice may result in the sale of the vehicle and the termination of all rights of the owner and the secured party to the vehicle or the proceeds of the sale.
 - (ii) Enter the information described in subparagraph (i) on a website maintained by the department for public use in locating vehicles that are removed under this section as abandoned. The department shall maintain the data on the website for 1 year or until the vehicle is disposed of under this act, whichever occurs first.
- (6) The owner may contest the fact that the vehicle is considered abandoned or the reasonableness of the towing fees and daily storage fees by requesting a hearing and posting a bond equal to \$40.00 plus the amount of the accrued towing and storage fees. A request for a hearing shall be made by filing a petition with the court specified in the notice described in subsection (5)(c) within 20 days after the date of the notice. If the owner requests a hearing, the matter shall be resolved after a hearing conducted under sections 252e and 252f. An owner who requests a hearing may obtain release of the vehicle by posting a towing and storage bond in an amount equal to the \$40.00 plus the accrued towing and storage fees with the court. The owner of a vehicle who requests a hearing may obtain release of the vehicle by paying a fee of \$40.00 to the court and the accrued towing and storage fees instead of posting the towing and storage bond.
- (7) If the owner does not request a hearing under subsection (6), he or she may obtain the release of the vehicle by paying a fee of \$40.00 and the accrued towing and storage fees to the custodian of the vehicle. The custodian of the vehicle shall forward \$25.00 of the fee to the secretary of state within 30 days after receipt in a manner prescribed by the secretary of state, who shall deposit the fee into the abandoned vehicle fund created in section 252h.
- (8) If the owner does not redeem the vehicle or request a hearing within 20 days after the date of the notice described in subsection (5)(c), the secured party may obtain the release of the vehicle by paying a \$40.00 fee plus the

accrued charges to the custodian of the vehicle. The custodian of the vehicle shall forward \$25.00 of the fee to the secretary of state, who shall deposit the fee into the abandoned vehicle fund created in section 252h.

(9) If a vehicle has remained on private property without the consent of the property owner, the owner of the private property may have the vehicle taken into custody as an abandoned vehicle by contacting a local towing agency. A local towing agency is considered a towing agency whose storage lot is located within 15 miles from the border of the local unit of government having jurisdiction over the abandoned vehicle.

(10) Before removing the vehicle from private property, the towing agency shall provide reasonable notice by telephone, or otherwise, to a police agency having jurisdiction over the vehicle that the vehicle is being removed. The police agency shall determine if the vehicle has been reported stolen and enter the vehicle into the law enforcement information network as an abandoned vehicle. Verification by the police agency of compliance with this section is not necessary and is not a predicate to the entrance of the vehicle into the law enforcement information network.

(11) Within 24 hours after taking the abandoned vehicle into custody, the police agency shall notify the secretary of state through the law enforcement information network that the vehicle has been taken into custody as abandoned. Each notification shall contain the following information:

- (a) The year, make, and vehicle identification number of the vehicle if available.
- (b) The address or approximate location from which the vehicle was taken into custody.
- (c) The date on which the vehicle was taken into custody.
- (d) The name and address of the police agency that had the vehicle taken into custody.
- (e) The name and business address of the custodian of the vehicle.
- (f) The name of the court that has jurisdiction over the case.

(12) Within 7 days after being notified under subsection (11), the secretary of state shall do both of the following:

(a) Send to the owner and secured party, as shown by the records of the secretary of state, by first-class mail or personal service, notice that the vehicle is considered abandoned. The form for the notice shall be furnished by the secretary of state. Each notice form shall contain the following information:

- (i) The year, make, and vehicle identification number of the vehicle if available.
- (ii) The location from which the vehicle was taken into custody.
- (iii) The date on which the vehicle was taken into custody.
- (iv) The name of the towing agency that had the vehicle taken into custody.
- (v) The business address of the custodian of the vehicle.
- (vi) The procedure to redeem the vehicle.

(vii) The procedure to contest the fact that the vehicle is considered abandoned or the reasonableness of the towing fees and daily storage fees.

(viii) A form petition that the owner may file in person or by mail with the specified court that requests a hearing on the custodian's action.

(ix) A warning that the failure to redeem the vehicle or to request a hearing within 20 days after the date of the notice may result in the sale of the vehicle and the termination of all rights of the owner and the secured party to the vehicle or the proceeds of the sale.

(b) Enter the information described in subdivision (a) on a website maintained by the department for public use in locating vehicles that are removed under this section as abandoned.

(13) The owner may contest the fact that the vehicle is abandoned or, unless the towing fees and daily storage fees are established by contract with the local governmental unit or local law enforcement agency and comply with section 252i, the reasonableness of the towing fees and daily storage fees by requesting a hearing. A request for a hearing shall be made by filing a petition with the court specified in the notice within 20 days after the date of the notice. If the owner requests a hearing, the matter shall be resolved after a hearing conducted under section 252f. An owner who requests a hearing may obtain release of the vehicle by posting with the court a towing and storage bond in an amount equal to \$40.00 plus the accrued towing and storage fees. The owner of a vehicle who requests a hearing may obtain release of the vehicle by paying a fee of \$40.00 to the court plus the towing and storage fees instead of posting the towing and storage bond. An owner requesting a hearing but not taking possession of the vehicle shall post with the court a towing and storage bond in an amount equal to \$40.00 plus the accrued towing and storage fees.

(14) If the owner does not request a hearing, he or she may obtain the release of the vehicle by paying a fee of \$40.00 plus the accrued charges to the custodian of the vehicle. The custodian shall forward \$25.00 of the fee collected under this subsection to the secretary of state within 30 days after receipt in a manner prescribed by the secretary of state, who shall deposit the fee into the abandoned vehicle fund created in section 252h.

(15) If the owner does not redeem the vehicle or request a hearing within 20 days after the date of the notice, the secured party may obtain the release of the vehicle by paying a fee of \$40.00 and the accrued towing and storage fees

to the custodian of the vehicle. The custodian shall forward \$25.00 of the fee collected under this subsection to the secretary of state within 30 days after receipt in a manner prescribed by the secretary of state, who shall deposit the fee into the abandoned vehicle fund created in section 252h.

(16) Not less than 20 days after the disposition of the hearing described in subsection (6) or, if a hearing is not requested, not less than 20 days after the date of the notice, the police agency if the abandoned vehicle is found on public property, or the custodian of the vehicle if the vehicle is found on private property, shall offer the vehicle for sale at a public sale under section 252g.

(17) If the ownership of a vehicle that is considered abandoned under this section cannot be determined either because of the condition of the vehicle identification numbers or because a check with the records of the secretary of state as described in section 221 or 237 does not reveal ownership, the police agency may sell the vehicle at public sale as provided in section 252g not less than 30 days after public notice of the sale has been published.

(18) The secretary of state shall release a vehicle for disposition under section 252b or 252g within 45 days after the vehicle is entered into the law enforcement information network as an abandoned vehicle.

Sec. 252d. (1) A police agency or a governmental agency designated by the police agency may provide for the immediate removal of a vehicle from public or private property to a place of safekeeping at the expense of the last-titled owner of the vehicle in any of the following circumstances:

(a) If the vehicle is in such a condition that the continued operation of the vehicle upon the highway would constitute an immediate hazard to the public.

(b) If the vehicle is parked or standing upon the highway in such a manner as to create an immediate public hazard or an obstruction of traffic.

(c) If a vehicle is parked in a posted tow away zone.

(d) If there is reasonable cause to believe that the vehicle or any part of the vehicle is stolen.

(e) If the vehicle must be seized to preserve evidence of a crime, or if there is reasonable cause to believe that the vehicle was used in the commission of a crime.

(f) If removal is necessary in the interest of public safety because of fire, flood, storm, snow, natural or man-made disaster, or other emergency.

(g) If the vehicle is hampering the use of private property by the owner or person in charge of that property or is parked in a manner which impedes the movement of another vehicle.

(h) If the vehicle is stopped, standing, or parked in a space designated as parking for persons with disabilities and is not permitted by law to be stopped, standing, or parked in a space designated as parking for persons with disabilities.

(i) If the vehicle is located in a clearly identified access aisle or access lane immediately adjacent to a space designated as parking for persons with disabilities.

(j) If the vehicle is interfering with the use of a ramp or a curb-cut by persons with disabilities.

(k) If the vehicle has been involved in a traffic crash and cannot be safely operated from the scene of the crash.

(2) If the owner or other person who is legally entitled to possess the vehicle arrives at the location where a vehicle is located before the actual towing or removal of the vehicle, the vehicle shall be disconnected from the tow truck, and the owner or other person who is legally entitled to possess the vehicle may take possession of the vehicle and remove it without interference upon the payment of the reasonable service fee, for which a receipt shall be provided.

(3) A police agency that authorizes the removal of a vehicle under subsection (1) shall do all of the following:

(a) Check to determine if the vehicle has been reported stolen prior to authorizing the removal of the vehicle.

(b) Except for vehicles impounded under subsection (1)(d), (e), or (k), a police agency shall enter the vehicle into the law enforcement information network as abandoned not less than 7 days after authorizing the removal and follow the procedures set forth in section 252a.

(4) A vehicle impounded under subsection (1)(d), (e), or (k) must first be released by the police agency that authorized the removal prior to the towing agency or custodian releasing the vehicle to the vehicle owner.

(5) Not less than 20 days but not more than 30 days after a vehicle has been released under subsection (4), the towing agency or custodian shall notify the police agency to enter the vehicle as abandoned and the police agency shall follow the procedures set forth in section 252a if the impounded vehicle has not been redeemed.

Sec. 252e. (1) The following courts have jurisdiction to determine if a police agency, towing agency or custodian, or private property owner has acted properly in reporting or processing a vehicle under section 252a, 252b(6) to (11), or 252d:

(a) The district court.

(b) A municipal court.

(2) The court specified in the notice prescribed in section 252a(5)(b) or 252b(7) or as provided in section 252d(3)(b) shall be the court that has territorial jurisdiction at the location from where the vehicle was removed or considered abandoned. Venue in the district court shall be governed by section 8312 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.8312.

(3) If the owner fails to pay the accrued towing and storage fees, the towing and storage bond posted with the court to secure release of the vehicle under section 252a, 252b, or 252d shall be used to pay the towing and storage fees.

(4) The remedies under sections 252 through 254 are the exclusive remedies for the disposition of abandoned vehicles.

Sec. 252f. (1) Upon the filing of a petition prescribed in section 252a, 252b, or 252d, signed by the owner of the vehicle which has been taken into custody, the court shall do both of the following:

(a) Schedule a hearing within 30 days for the purpose of determining whether the police agency, towing agency or custodian, or private property owner acted properly.

(b) Notify the owner, towing agency or custodian, and police agency or if the vehicle was removed from private property, notify the private property owner also of the time and place of the hearing.

(2) At the hearing specified in subsection (1), the police agency, towing agency or custodian, or, if the vehicle was removed from private property, the private property owner shall have the burden of showing by a preponderance of the evidence that it has complied with the requirements of this act in reporting or processing the abandoned vehicle or vehicle removed under section 252d.

(3) After the hearing, the court shall make a decision that includes 1 or more of the following:

(a) A finding that the police agency complied with the procedures established for the processing of an abandoned vehicle or a vehicle removed under section 252a, 252b, or 252d, and an order providing a period of 20 days after the decision for the owner to redeem the vehicle. If the owner does not redeem the vehicle within 20 days, the police agency shall dispose of the vehicle under section 252b or 252g. The court shall forward \$25.00 of the fee collected under section 252b or 252g to the secretary of state within 30 days after the court's decision in a manner prescribed by the secretary of state. The towing and storage fees and \$15.00 of the fee collected under section 252b or 252g shall be forwarded to the towing agency.

(b) A finding that the police agency did not comply with the procedures established for the processing of an abandoned vehicle or a vehicle removed under section 252a, 252b, or 252d. After making the finding, the court shall issue an order directing that the vehicle immediately be released to the owner, and that the police agency is responsible for the accrued towing and storage charges. The court shall also order any fee or bond posted by the owner to be returned to the owner.

(c) A finding that the towing fees and daily storage fees were reasonable.

(d) A finding that the towing fees and daily storage fees were unreasonable and issue an order directing the towing agency or custodian of the vehicle to provide the last titled owner of the vehicle with an appropriate reduction or refund.

(e) A finding that the owner of the real property complied with the provisions of section 252k or 252l.

(f) A finding that the owner of the real property did not comply with the provisions of section 252k or 252l, and issue an order requiring the owner of the real property to reimburse the last titled owner of the vehicle for the accrued towing and storage charges.

(g) A finding that the towing agency did not comply with the procedures established for the proper removal and reporting of an abandoned vehicle removed under section 252a(10), 252b, or 252d. After making the finding, the court shall issue an order directing that the vehicle immediately be released to the owner and that the towing agency is responsible for the accrued towing and storage charges. The court shall also order any fee or bond posted by the owner to be returned to the owner.

(h) A finding that the towing agency did comply with the procedures established for the proper removal and reporting of an abandoned vehicle removed under section 252a(10), 252b, or 252d.

Sec. 252g. (1) Subject to section 252a(16), a public sale for a vehicle and its contents that has been determined to be abandoned under section 252a or removed under section 252d shall be conducted in the following manner:

(a) It shall be under the control of the police agency. However, a police agency may designate the custodian of the vehicle or a third party to conduct the auction.

(b) It shall be open to the public and consist of open auction bidding or bidding by sealed bids. If sealed bids are received, the person submitting the bid shall receive a receipt for the bid from the police agency or the agency's designee or, if the vehicle is being sold under section 252a(16), the custodian of the vehicle.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in sections 252a(16) and (17) and 252b(7), it shall be held not less than 5 days after public notice of the sale has been published.

(d) The public notice shall be published at least once in a newspaper having a general circulation within the county in which the vehicle was abandoned. The public notice shall give a description of the vehicle for sale and shall state the time, date, and location of the sale.

(2) The money received from the public sale of the vehicle shall be applied in the following order of priority:

(a) Towing and storage charges.

(b) Expenses incurred by the police agency or the custodian of the vehicle.

(c) Payment of the \$40.00 abandoned vehicle fee described in section 252f(3)(a).

(d) Any extra money shall be sent to the department of treasury's unclaimed property division to be disbursed as follows:

(i) To the secured party, if any, in the amount of the debt outstanding on the vehicle.

(ii) Remainder to the owner. A reasonable attempt shall be made to mail the remainder to the last titled owner. If delivery of the remainder cannot be accomplished, the remainder shall become the property of the unit of government governing the location from which the vehicle was towed.

(3) If there are no bidders on the vehicle, the police agency or the custodian of the vehicle may do 1 of the following:

(a) Turn the vehicle over to the towing firm or the custodian of the vehicle to satisfy charges against the vehicle. However, if the value of the vehicle does not satisfy the towing fees and accrued daily storage fees, the custodian of the vehicle may collect the balance of those unpaid fees from the last titled owner, subject to section 252i.

(b) Obtain title to the vehicle for the police agency or the unit of government the police agency represents, by doing the following:

(i) Paying the towing and storage charges.

(ii) Applying for title to the vehicle.

(c) Hold another public sale under subsection (1).

(4) A person who acquires ownership of a vehicle under subsection (1) or (3) that has been designated as a distressed vehicle shall apply for a salvage certificate of title within 15 days after obtaining the vehicle.

(5) Upon disposition of the vehicle, the police agency or towing agency or custodian shall provide the secretary of state and the police agency, if that police agency did not conduct the sale, with the vehicle's disposition and the name of the agency that disposed of it and the police agency shall cancel the entry in the law enforcement information network.

(6) Not less than 25 days after the date of notice required under section 252a, if the police agency does not provide a copy of the bill of sale by the police agency for the abandoned vehicle to the towing agency or custodian or police agency's designee, the towing agency or custodian or police agency designee may obtain an original of the bill of sale by submitting an application to the secretary of state in a form as determined by the secretary of state.

Sec. 252k. Except as otherwise provided in section 252l, an owner or lessor of private real property shall post a notice that meets all of the following requirements before authorizing the towing or removal of a vehicle from the real property without the consent of the owner or other person who is legally entitled to possess the vehicle:

(a) The notice shall be prominently displayed at each point of entry for vehicular access to the real property. If the real property lacks curbs or access barriers, not less than 1 notice shall be posted for each 100 feet of road frontage.

(b) The notice clearly indicates in letters not less than 2 inches high on a contrasting background that unauthorized vehicles will be towed away at the owner's expense.

(c) The notice provides the name and telephone number of the towing service responsible for towing or removing vehicles from that property.

(d) The notice is permanently installed with the bottom of the notice located not less than 4 feet from the ground and is continuously maintained on the property for not less than 24 hours before a vehicle is towed or removed.

Sec. 252l. Section 252k does not apply to any of the following:

(a) Real property that is appurtenant to and obviously part of a single- or dual-family residence.

(b) An instance when notice is personally given to the owner or other legally entitled person in control of a vehicle that the area where the vehicle is parked is reserved or otherwise unavailable to unauthorized vehicles and that the vehicle is subject to towing or removal from the private real property without the consent of the owner or other legally entitled person in control of the vehicle.

(c) A vehicle removed from private property under section 252d.

Sec. 625n. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section and in addition to any other penalty provided for in this act, the judgment of sentence for a conviction for a violation of section 625(1) described in section 625(9)(b) or (c), a

violation of section 625(3) described in section 625(11)(b) or (c), a violation of section 625(4), (5), or (7), or a violation of section 904(4) or (5) may require 1 of the following with regard to the vehicle used in the offense if the defendant owns the vehicle in whole or in part or leases the vehicle:

(a) Forfeiture of the vehicle if the defendant owns the vehicle in whole or in part.

(b) Return of the vehicle to the lessor if the defendant leases the vehicle.

(2) The vehicle may be seized pursuant to an order of seizure issued by the court having jurisdiction upon a showing of probable cause that the vehicle is subject to forfeiture or return to the lessor.

(3) The forfeiture of a vehicle is subject to the interest of the holder of a security interest who did not have prior knowledge of or consent to the violation.

(4) Within 14 days after the defendant's conviction for a violation described in subsection (1), the prosecuting attorney may file a petition with the court for the forfeiture of the vehicle or to have the court order return of a leased vehicle to the lessor. The prosecuting attorney shall give notice by first-class mail or other process to the defendant and his or her attorney, to all owners of the vehicle, and to any person holding a security interest in the vehicle that the court may require forfeiture or return of the vehicle.

(5) If a vehicle is seized before disposition of the criminal proceedings, a defendant who is an owner or lessee of the vehicle may move the court having jurisdiction over the proceedings to require the seizing agency to file a lien against the vehicle and to return the vehicle to the owner or lessee pending disposition of the criminal proceedings. The court shall hear the motion within 7 days after the motion is filed. If the defendant establishes at the hearing that he or she holds the legal title to the vehicle or that he or she has a leasehold interest and that it is necessary for him or her or a member of his or her family to use the vehicle pending the outcome of the forfeiture action, the court may order the seizing agency to return the vehicle to the owner or lessee. If the court orders the return of the vehicle to the owner or lessee, the court shall order the defendant to post a bond in an amount equal to the retail value of the vehicle, and shall also order the seizing agency to file a lien against the vehicle.

(6) Within 14 days after notice by the prosecuting attorney is given under subsection (4), the defendant, an owner, lessee, or holder of a security interest may file a claim of interest in the vehicle with the court. Within 21 days after the expiration of the period for filing claims, but before or at sentencing, the court shall hold a hearing to determine the legitimacy of any claim, the extent of any co-owner's equity interest, the liability of the defendant to any co-lessee, and whether to order the vehicle forfeited or returned to the lessor. In considering whether to order forfeiture, the court shall review the defendant's driving record to determine whether the defendant has multiple convictions under section 625 or a local ordinance substantially corresponding to section 625, or multiple suspensions, restrictions, or denials under section 904, or both. If the defendant has multiple convictions under section 625 or multiple suspensions, restrictions, or denials under section 904, or both, that factor shall weigh heavily in favor of forfeiture.

(7) If a vehicle is forfeited under this section, the unit of government that seized the vehicle shall sell the vehicle pursuant to the procedures under section 252g(1) and dispose of the proceeds in the following order of priority:

(a) Pay any outstanding security interest of a secured party who did not have prior knowledge of or consent to the commission of the violation.

(b) Pay the equity interest of a co-owner who did not have prior knowledge of or consent to the commission of the violation.

(c) Satisfy any order of restitution entered in the prosecution for the violation.

(d) Pay any outstanding accrued towing and storage fees.

(e) Pay the claim of each person who shows that he or she is a victim of the violation to the extent that the claim is not covered by an order of restitution.

(f) Pay any outstanding lien against the property that has been imposed by a governmental unit.

(g) Pay the proper expenses of the proceedings for forfeiture and sale, including, but not limited to, expenses incurred during the seizure process and expenses for maintaining custody of the property, advertising, and court costs.

(h) The balance remaining after the payment of items (a) through (g) shall be distributed by the court having jurisdiction over the forfeiture proceedings to the unit or units of government substantially involved in effecting the forfeiture. Seventy-five percent of the money received by a unit of government under this subdivision shall be used to enhance enforcement of the criminal laws and 25% of the money shall be used to implement the crime victim's rights act, 1985 PA 87, MCL 780.751 to 780.834. A unit of government receiving money under this subdivision shall report annually to the department of management and budget the amount of money received under this subdivision that was used to enhance enforcement of the criminal laws and the amount that was used to implement the crime victim's rights act, 1985 PA 87, MCL 780.751 to 780.834.

(8) The court may order the defendant to pay to a co-lessee any liability determined under subsection (6). The order may be enforced in the same manner as a civil judgment.

(9) The return of a vehicle to the lessor under this section does not affect or impair the lessor's rights or the defendant's obligations under the lease.

(10) A person who knowingly conceals, sells, gives away, or otherwise transfers or disposes of a vehicle with the intent to avoid forfeiture or return of the vehicle to the lessor under this section is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 1 year or a fine of not more than \$1,000.00, or both.

(11) The failure of the court or prosecutor to comply with any time limit specified in this section does not preclude the court from ordering forfeiture of a vehicle or its return to a lessor, unless the court finds that the owner or claimant suffered substantial prejudice as a result of that failure.

(12) The forfeiture provisions of this section do not preclude the prosecuting attorney from pursuing a forfeiture proceeding under any other law of this state or a local ordinance substantially corresponding to this section.

Sec. 716. (1) Unless specifically declared to be a civil infraction, it is a misdemeanor for a person to drive or move or for the owner to cause or permit to be driven or moved on a highway a vehicle or vehicles of a size or weight exceeding the limitations stated in this chapter or otherwise in violation of this chapter, and the maximum size and weight specified in this chapter are lawful throughout this state, and local authorities shall not alter those size and weight limitations except as express authority is granted in this chapter.

(2) The provision of this chapter governing size, weight, and load do not apply to a fire apparatus, to an implement of husbandry, a boat lift or oversized hydraulic boat trailer owned and operated by a marina or watercraft dealer used exclusively in a commercial boat storage operation and incidentally moved upon a highway, a combination of vehicles described in, and under the conditions provided by, subsection (4), or to a vehicle operated under the terms of a special permit issued as provided in this chapter.

(3) The state transportation department, under the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328, may promulgate rules permitting and regulating the operation of a vehicle or vehicles of a size or weight that exceeds the size or weight limitations in this chapter. The rules may restrict or proscribe the conditions of operation of a vehicle or vehicles of a size or weight that exceeds the size or weight limitations in this chapter, if the restriction or proscription is necessary to protect the public safety or to prevent undue damage to a road foundation or surface, a structure, or an installation. The rules may provide for a reasonable inspection fee for an inspection of a vehicle or vehicles to determine whether their sizes and weights are in conformance with this act, and may require other security necessary to compensate for damage caused by the vehicle or vehicles described in this subsection.

(4) A wrecker and a disabled vehicle, or a wrecker and a combination of a disabled vehicle and 1 trailer, that exceeds the size and weight limitations in this chapter may be operated upon the highways of this state under the following conditions:

(a) The wrecker is specifically designed for such towing operations, is equipped with flashing, oscillating, or rotating amber or red lights as permitted under section 698, and is capable of utilizing the lighting and braking systems of the disabled vehicle or combination of disabled vehicles if those systems are operational.

(b) For a combination of disabled vehicles, the wrecker is issued a special permit under section 725 by the state transportation department if each trip beginning from the place of original disablement of the combination of disabled vehicles is 25 miles or less except that, for each trip that begins and ends north of a line between Ludington and Pinconning, the trip beginning from the place of original disablement of the combination of vehicles may be 50 miles or less. The special permit is valid for the entire towing distance set forth in this subdivision, and the operator of the wrecker may remove the disabled vehicles from the roadway at any lawful point of his or her choosing within that distance.

(c) For a single disabled vehicle, the wrecker is issued a special permit under section 725 by the state transportation department for the transport of the disabled vehicle. A wrecker operator is not subject to mileage limitations for a special permit issued for purposes of this subdivision.

(d) The wrecker does not operate on any highway, road, street, or structure included on a list provided by the state transportation department unless the disabled vehicle or combination of vehicles is located on 1 of those roads or structures.

(5) The owner or operator of a wrecker that does not comply with subsection (4)(d) is responsible for a civil infraction and shall pay a civil fine of not less than \$250.00 or more than \$500.00. The civil fine imposed under this subsection is in addition to any fine that may be imposed under section 724 or 725.

Sec. 717. (1) The total outside width of a vehicle or the load on a vehicle shall not exceed 96 inches, except as otherwise provided in this section.

(2) A person may operate or move an implement of husbandry of any width on a highway as required, designed, and intended for farming operations, including the movement of implements of husbandry being driven or towed and not hauled on a trailer, without obtaining a special permit for an excessively wide vehicle or load under section 725. The operation or movement of the implement of husbandry shall be in a manner so as to minimize the interruption of traffic

flow. A person shall not operate or move an implement of husbandry to the left of the center of the roadway from a half hour after sunset to a half hour before sunrise, under the conditions specified in section 639, or at any time visibility is substantially diminished due to weather conditions. A person operating or moving an implement of husbandry shall follow all traffic regulations.

(3) The total outside width of the load of a vehicle hauling concrete pipe, agricultural products, or unprocessed logs, pulpwood, or wood bolts shall not exceed 108 inches.

(4) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (5) and this subsection, if a vehicle that is equipped with pneumatic tires is operated on a highway, the maximum width from the outside of 1 wheel and tire to the outside of the opposite wheel and tire shall not exceed 102 inches, and the outside width of the body of the vehicle or the load on the vehicle shall not exceed 96 inches. However, a truck and trailer or a tractor and semitrailer combination hauling pulpwood or unprocessed logs may be operated with a maximum width of not to exceed 108 inches in accordance with a special permit issued under section 725.

(5) The total outside body width of a bus, a trailer coach, a trailer, a semitrailer, a truck camper, or a motor home shall not exceed 102 inches. However, an appurtenance of a trailer coach, a truck camper, or a motor home that extends not more than 6 inches beyond the total outside body width is not a violation of this section.

(6) A vehicle shall not extend beyond the center line of a state trunk line highway except when authorized by law. Except as provided in subsection (2), if the width of the vehicle makes it impossible to stay away from the center line, a permit shall be obtained under section 725.

(7) The director of the state transportation department, a county road commission, or a local authority may designate a highway under the agency's jurisdiction as a highway on which a person may operate a vehicle or vehicle combination that is not more than 102 inches in width, including load, the operation of which would otherwise be prohibited by this section. The agency making the designation may require that the owner or lessee of the vehicle or of each vehicle in the vehicle combination secure a permit before operating the vehicle or vehicle combination. This subsection does not restrict the issuance of a special permit under section 725 for the operation of a vehicle or vehicle combination. This subsection does not permit the operation of a vehicle or vehicle combination described in section 722a carrying a load described in that section if the operation would otherwise result in a violation of that section.

(8) The director of the state transportation department, a county road commission, or a local authority may issue a special permit under section 725 to a person operating a vehicle or vehicle combination if all of the following are met:

(a) The vehicle or vehicle combination, including load, is not more than 106 inches in width.

(b) The vehicle or vehicle combination is used solely to move new motor vehicles or parts or components of new motor vehicles between facilities that meet all of the following:

(i) New motor vehicles or parts or components of new motor vehicles are manufactured or assembled in the facilities.

(ii) The facilities are located within 10 miles of each other.

(iii) The facilities are located within the city limits of the same city and the city is located in a county that has a population of more than 400,000 and less than 500,000 according to the most recent federal decennial census.

(c) The special permit and any renewals are each issued for a term of 1 year or less.

(9) A person may move or operate a boat lift of any width or an oversized hydraulic boat trailer owned and operated by a marina or watercraft dealer in a commercial boat storage operation on a highway under a multiple trip permit issued on an annual basis as specified under section 725. The operation or movement of the boat lift or trailer shall minimize the interruption of traffic flow. It shall be used exclusively to transport a boat between a place of storage and a marina or in and around a marina. A boat lift or oversized hydraulic boat trailer may be operated, drawn, or towed on a street or highway only when transporting a vessel between a body of water and a place of storage or when traveling empty to or from transporting a vessel. A boat lift shall not be operated on limited access highways. A person moving or operating a boat lift or oversized hydraulic boat trailer shall follow all traffic regulations and shall ensure the route selected has adequate power and utility wire height clearance.

(10) A person who violates this section is responsible for a civil infraction. The owner of the vehicle may be charged with a violation of this section.

Sec. 726. (1) Local authorities and county road commissions with respect to highways under their jurisdiction, except state trunk line highways, by ordinance or resolution, may do any of the following:

(a) Prohibit the operation of trucks or other commercial vehicles on designated highways or streets.

(b) Impose limitations as to the weight of trucks or other commercial vehicles on designated highways or streets.

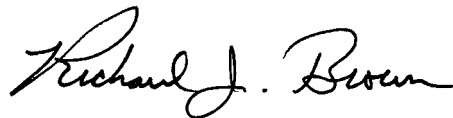
(c) Provide that only certain highways or streets may be used by trucks or other commercial vehicles.

(2) Any prohibitions, limitations, or truck route designations established under subsection (1) shall be designated by appropriate signs placed on the highways or streets. The design and placement of the signs shall be consistent with the requirements of section 608.

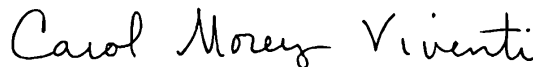
(3) If a township has established any prohibition or limitation under subsection (1) on any county primary road that an adjoining township determines diverts traffic onto a border highway or street shared by the township and the adjoining township, the adjoining township may submit a written objection to the county road commission having jurisdiction over the county primary road, along with a copy to the township that established the prohibition or limitation, on or before the later of March 1, 2009, or 60 days after the township approves the prohibition or limitation. The written objection shall explain how the prohibition or limitation diverts traffic onto the border highway or street shared by the township and the adjoining township. The county road commission shall then investigate the objection. The township and adjoining township shall cooperate with that investigation and negotiate in good faith to resolve the objection. If the objection is not resolved within 60 days after the township receives the copy of the written objection, the county road commission has the authority to, and shall, either approve or void the prohibition or limitation that is the subject of the objection within 60 days thereafter, which decision shall be final. For purposes of this subsection, "county primary road" means a highway or street designated as a county primary road pursuant to 1951 PA 51, MCL 247.671 to 247.675.

(4) A person who violates a prohibition, limitation, or truck route designation established pursuant to subsection (1) is responsible for a civil infraction.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.



Clerk of the House of Representatives



Secretary of the Senate

Approved

Governor