

Legislative Analysis



ELECTRONIC TITLE TRANSFERS, TEMPORARY PERMITS

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 5109 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Pat Outman

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

House Bill 5110 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Karl Bohnak

House Bill 5111 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Steve Frisbie

House Bill 5112 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Dave Prestin

Committee: Transportation and Infrastructure
Complete to 10-27-25

SUMMARY:

House Bill 5109 would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to exempt buyers and purchasers of vehicles from providing or processing physical copies of certificates or records of title if the title was transferred electronically. For example, they would not have to endorse the certificate in certain cases or present it in person when transferring plates.

MCL 257.233 et seq.

House Bill 5110 would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to allow the secretary of state to issue a temporary registration permit to an applicant for renewal whose current registration will expire before they receive a license plate. The proper fees and any required donation for the plate would still have to be paid first, but there would be no charge for the temporary permit. The temporary permit would expire when the applicant receives the plate or after 60 days, whichever is earlier.

MCL 257.227

House Bill 5111 would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) to allow the Department of State to establish, implement, and operate an electronic system to process off-road vehicle (ORV) title transfers between private parties. The department could enter into one or more contracts to do so. The language of the bill mirrors that of 2023 PA 240 with regard to electronic transfers of vehicle titles.

MCL 324.81105

House Bill 5112 would amend NREPA to allow the Department of State to establish, implement, and operate an electronic system to process watercraft title transfers between private parties. The department could enter into one or more contracts to do so. The language of the bill mirrors that of 2023 PA 240 with regard to electronic transfers of vehicle titles.

MCL 324.80304

BACKGROUND:

The bills are understood to be follow-up legislation to implement and broaden the provisions of 2023 PA 240, which allowed the secretary of state to issue an electronic vehicle title and establish an electronic system to facilitate electronic transfers of vehicle ownership.

The bills are reintroductions of Senate Bills 1008, 1009, and 1010 of the 2023-24 legislative session, as passed by the Senate, and are substantively identical to Senate Bills 137, 138, and 139 of the current legislative session, as passed by the Senate and referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure committee. However, those bill packages included the NREPA provisions related to ORV and watercraft titles in a single bill rather than addressing them separately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bills would have no fiscal impact on the state or local units of government. The Department of State may incur marginal administrative costs from issuing temporary registration permits for no charge, under House Bill 5110, and to extend the capability of electronically transferring ownership interests, or titles, for ORVs and watercraft, under House Bill 5111 and 5112. However, these costs would be able to be covered with existing resources.

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