

HOUSE BILL NO. 5279

November 12, 2025, Introduced by Reps. Brixie, Rogers, Morgan, Xiong, Young, Neeley, O'Neal, Byrnes, B. Carter, Price, McKinney, Witwer, Tate, Liberati, Weiss, Steckloff, Tsernoglou, Paiz, Scott, Glanville, Dievendorf, Mentzer, Longjohn, T. Carter, Andrews, Miller, Koleszar, McFall, Wooden and Breen and referred to Committee on Government Operations.

A bill to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled
"Michigan vehicle code,"
by amending section 310 (MCL 257.310), as amended by 2021 PA 104,
and by adding sections 803v and 803w.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 310. (1) The secretary of state shall issue an operator's
2 license to each ~~person~~**individual** licensed as an operator and a
3 chauffeur's license to each ~~person~~**individual** licensed as a
4 chauffeur. An applicant for a motorcycle ~~indorsement~~**endorsement**

under section 312a or a vehicle group designation or ~~indorsement~~
endorsement shall first qualify for an operator's or chauffeur's
 license before the ~~indorsement~~**endorsement** or vehicle group
 designation application is accepted and processed. An original
 license or the first renewal of an existing license issued to a
~~person less~~**an individual younger** than 21 years of age must be
 portrait or vertical in form and a license issued to a ~~person~~**an**
individual 21 years of age or ~~over~~**older** must be landscape or
 horizontal in form.

(2) The license issued under subsection (1) must contain all
 of the following:

(a) The distinguishing number permanently assigned to the
 licensee.

(b) Except as provided in section 310f, the full legal name,
 date of birth, address of residence, height, eye color, sex,
 digital photographic image, expiration date, and signature of the
 licensee.

(c) In the case of a licensee who has indicated ~~his or her~~**the**
licensee's wish to participate in the anatomical gift donor
 registry under part 101 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL
 333.10101 to 333.10123, a heart insignia on the front of the
 license.

(d) Physical security features designed to prevent tampering,
 counterfeiting, or duplication of the license for fraudulent
 purposes.

(e) If requested by an individual who is a veteran of the
 armed forces of this state, another state, or the United States **or**
the uniformed services of the United States, as that term is
defined in 37 USC 101, a designation that the individual is a

1 veteran. The designation must be in a style and format considered
 2 appropriate by the secretary of state. The secretary of state shall
 3 require proof of discharge or separation of service from the armed
 4 forces of this state, another state, or the United States **or from 1**
 5 **of the uniformed services of the United States, as that term is**
 6 **defined in 37 USC 101**, and the nature of that discharge, for the
 7 purposes of verifying an individual's status as a veteran under
 8 this subdivision. The secretary of state shall consult with the
 9 **respective uniformed service's department or the** department of
 10 military and veterans affairs in determining the proof that must be
 11 required to identify an individual's status as a veteran for the
 12 purposes of this subsection. The secretary of state may provide **the**
 13 **respective uniformed service's department or** the department of
 14 military and veterans affairs and agencies of the counties of this
 15 state that provide veteran services with information provided by an
 16 applicant under this subsection for the purpose of veterans'
 17 benefits eligibility referral.

18 (3) Except as otherwise required under this chapter, other
 19 information required on the license under this chapter may appear
 20 on the license in a form prescribed by the secretary of state.

21 (4) The license must not contain a fingerprint or finger image
 22 of the licensee.

23 (5) A digitized license may contain an identifier for voter
 24 registration purposes. The digitized license may contain
 25 information appearing in electronic or machine-readable codes
 26 needed to conduct a transaction with the secretary of state. The
 27 information must be limited to the information described in
 28 subsection (2)(a) and (b) except for the ~~person's~~ **individual's**
 29 digital photographic image and signature, state of issuance,

1 license expiration date, and other information necessary for use
2 with electronic devices, machine readers, or automatic teller
3 machines and must not contain the driving record or other personal
4 identifier. The license must identify the encoded information.

5 (6) The license must be manufactured in a manner to prohibit
6 as nearly as possible the ability to reproduce, alter, counterfeit,
7 forge, or duplicate the license without ready detection. In
8 addition, a license with a vehicle group designation must contain
9 the information required under 49 CFR part 383.

10 (7) Except as provided in subsection (11), a person ~~who~~**that**
11 intentionally reproduces, alters, counterfeits, forges, or
12 duplicates a license photograph, the negative of the photograph,
13 image, license, or electronic data contained on a license or a part
14 of a license or ~~who~~**that** uses a license, image, or photograph that
15 has been reproduced, altered, counterfeited, forged, or duplicated
16 is subject to 1 of the following:

17 (a) If the intent of the reproduction, alteration,
18 counterfeiting, forging, duplication, or use is to commit or aid in
19 the commission of an offense that is a felony punishable by
20 imprisonment for 10 or more years, the person committing the
21 reproduction, alteration, counterfeiting, forging, duplication, or
22 use is guilty of a felony, punishable by imprisonment for not more
23 than 10 years or a fine of not more than \$20,000.00, or both.

24 (b) If the intent of the reproduction, alteration,
25 counterfeiting, forging, duplication, or use is to commit or aid in
26 the commission of an offense that is a felony punishable by
27 imprisonment for less than 10 years or a misdemeanor punishable by
28 imprisonment for 6 months or more, the person committing the
29 reproduction, alteration, counterfeiting, forging, duplication, or

1 use is guilty of a felony, punishable by imprisonment for not more
2 than 5 years, or a fine of not more than \$10,000.00, or both.

3 (c) If the intent of the reproduction, alteration,
4 counterfeiting, forging, duplication, or use is to commit or aid in
5 the commission of an offense that is a misdemeanor punishable by
6 imprisonment for less than 6 months, the person committing the
7 reproduction, alteration, counterfeiting, forging, duplication, or
8 use is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not
9 more than 1 year or a fine of not more than \$2,000.00, or both.

10 (8) Except as provided in subsections (11) and (16), a person
11 ~~who-that~~ sells, or ~~who-that~~ possesses with the intent to deliver to
12 another, a reproduced, altered, counterfeited, forged, or
13 duplicated license photograph, negative of the photograph, image,
14 license, or electronic data contained on a license or part of a
15 license is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not
16 more than 5 years or a fine of not more than \$10,000.00, or both.

17 (9) Except as provided in subsections (11) and (16), a person
18 ~~who-that~~ is in possession of 2 or more reproduced, altered,
19 counterfeited, forged, or duplicated license photographs, negatives
20 of the photograph, images, licenses, or electronic data contained
21 on a license or part of a license is guilty of a felony punishable
22 by imprisonment for not more than 5 years or a fine of not more
23 than \$10,000.00, or both.

24 (10) Except as provided in subsection (16), a person ~~who-that~~
25 is in possession of a reproduced, altered, counterfeited, forged,
26 or duplicated license photograph, negative of the photograph,
27 image, license, or electronic data contained on a license or part
28 of a license is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment
29 for not more than 1 year or a fine of not more than \$2,000.00, or

1 both.

2 (11) Subsections (7)(a) and (b), (8), and (9) do not apply to
3 a minor whose intent is to violate section 703 of the Michigan
4 liquor control code of 1998, 1998 PA 58, MCL 436.1703.

5 (12) The secretary of state, upon determining after an
6 examination that an applicant is mentally and physically qualified
7 to receive a license, may issue the applicant a temporary driver's
8 permit. The temporary driver's permit entitles the applicant, while
9 having the permit in ~~his or her~~ **the applicant's** immediate
10 possession, to operate a motor vehicle upon the highway for a
11 period not exceeding 60 days before the secretary of state has
12 issued the applicant an operator's or chauffeur's license. The
13 secretary of state may establish a longer duration for the validity
14 of a temporary driver's permit if necessary to accommodate the
15 process of obtaining a background check that is required for an
16 applicant by federal law.

17 (13) An operator or chauffeur may indicate on the license in a
18 place designated by the secretary of state ~~his or her~~ **the**
19 **operator's or chauffeur's** blood type, emergency contact
20 information, immunization data, medication data, or a statement
21 that the licensee is deaf. The secretary of state shall not require
22 an applicant for an original or renewal operator's or chauffeur's
23 license to provide emergency contact information as a condition of
24 obtaining a license. However, the secretary of state may inquire
25 whether an operator or chauffeur would like to provide emergency
26 contact information and, beginning July 1, 2021, shall allow an
27 operator or chauffeur that meets the requirements of subsection
28 (21) to elect a communication impediment designation. Emergency
29 contact information obtained under this subsection must be

disclosed only to a state or federal law enforcement agency for law enforcement purposes or to the extent necessary for a medical emergency. The secretary of state shall develop and shall, in conjunction with the department of state police, implement a process using the L.E.I.N. or any other appropriate system that limits access to law enforcement that would allow law enforcement agencies of this state to access emergency contact information and, beginning July 1, 2021, to view a communication impediment designation that the holder of an operator's license has voluntarily provided to the secretary of state.

(14) An operator or chauffeur may indicate on the license in a place designated by the secretary of state that ~~he or she~~ **the operator or chauffeur** has designated a patient advocate in accordance with sections 5506 to 5515 of the estates and protected individuals code, 1998 PA 386, MCL 700.5506 to 700.5515.

(15) If the applicant provides proof to the secretary of state that ~~he or she~~ **the applicant** is a minor who has been emancipated under 1968 PA 293, MCL 722.1 to 722.6, the license must bear the designation of the individual's emancipated status in a manner prescribed by the secretary of state.

(16) Subsections (8), (9), and (10) do not apply to a person ~~who~~ **that** is in possession of 1 or more photocopies, reproductions, or duplications of a license to document the identity of the licensee for a legitimate business purpose.

(17) A sticker or decal may be provided by any person, hospital, school, medical group, or association interested in assisting in implementing an emergency medical information card, but must meet the specifications of the secretary of state. An emergency medical information card may contain information

1 concerning the licensee's patient advocate designation, other
2 emergency medical information, or an indication as to where the
3 licensee has stored or registered emergency medical information.

4 (18) The secretary of state shall inquire of each licensee, in
5 person or by mail, whether the licensee agrees to participate in
6 the anatomical gift donor registry under part 101 of the public
7 health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.10101 to 333.10123.

8 (19) A licensee who has agreed to participate in the
9 anatomical gift donor registry under part 101 of the public health
10 code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.10101 to 333.10123, must not be
11 considered to have revoked that agreement solely because the
12 licensee's license has been revoked or suspended or has expired.
13 Enrollment in the donor registry constitutes a legal agreement that
14 remains binding and in effect after the donor's death regardless of
15 the expressed desires of the deceased donor's next of kin who may
16 oppose the donor's anatomical gift.

17 (20) If an operator's or chauffeur's license is issued to an
18 individual described in section 307(1)(b) who has temporary lawful
19 status, the license must be issued in compliance with 6 CFR 37.21
20 or in compliance with the process established to comply with 6 CFR
21 37.71 by the secretary of state.

22 (21) An operator or chauffeur seeking an election for a
23 communication impediment designation under subsection (13) shall
24 provide to the secretary of state a certification that meets all of
25 the following:

26 (a) Is signed by a physician, physician assistant, certified
27 nurse practitioner, audiologist, speech-language pathologist,
28 psychologist, or physical therapist licensed to practice in this
29 state.

1 (b) Identifies the individual for whom the communication
2 impediment designation is being elected.

3 (c) Attests to the nature of the communication impediment.

4 (22) A person ~~who~~**that** intentionally makes a false statement
5 of material fact or commits or attempts to commit a deception or
6 fraud on a statement described under subsection (21) is guilty of a
7 misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 30 days or
8 a fine of not more than \$500.00, or both.

9 (23) Subject to subsection (24), the secretary of state may
10 cancel or revoke a communication impediment designation elected and
11 maintained under this section if either of the following
12 circumstances applies:

13 (a) The secretary of state determines that a communication
14 impediment designation was fraudulently or erroneously elected.

15 (b) The secretary of state determines the communication
16 impediment designation was abused during a traffic stop.

17 (24) The secretary of state shall provide the operator or
18 chauffeur notice and an opportunity to be heard before canceling or
19 revoking a communication impediment designation under subsection
20 (23).

21 (25) As used in this section:

22 (a) "Communication impediment" means ~~the operator or chauffeur~~
23 ~~has a~~ health condition **of an operator or chauffeur** that may impede
24 **the operator's or chauffeur's** communication with a police officer
25 during a traffic stop, including, but not limited to, any of the
26 following:

27 (i) Deafness or hearing loss.

28 (ii) An autism spectrum disorder.

29 (b) "Emergency contact information" means the name, telephone

1 number, or address of an individual that is used for the sole
2 purpose of contacting that individual when the holder of an
3 operator's license has been involved in an emergency.

4 (c) "Temporary lawful status" means that term as defined in 6
5 CFR 37.3.

6 (d) "Veteran" means that term as defined in section 1 of 1965
7 PA 190, MCL 35.61. **Veteran includes an individual who served in the**
8 **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned**
9 **Officer Corps or the United States Public Health Service**
10 **Commissioned Corps and was discharged or released under conditions**
11 **other than dishonorable.**

12 Sec. 803v. (1) An individual who was a member of the National
13 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps
14 may apply to the secretary of state for a special registration
15 plate that displays an appropriate vignette preceding the
16 registration numbers and has the word "veteran" inscribed beneath
17 the registration numbers.

18 (2) The application for a special registration plate must be
19 on a form prescribed by the secretary of state and accompanied by
20 any proof of the applicant having been a member of the National
21 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps
22 that the secretary of state may require. The application for a
23 special registration plate must not require a service fee under
24 section 804.

25 (3) Upon proper application, the secretary of state shall
26 issue 1 or more special registration plates under this section for
27 each applicant for use on a passenger vehicle. An individual who is
28 a disabled person and applies for a special registration plate
29 under this section must be issued a tab for persons with

1 disabilities as provided in section 803f for the applicant's
2 special registration plate. The secretary of state shall require
3 the same proof that the applicant is a disabled person as is
4 required for issuance of a permanent windshield placard under
5 section 675. An individual issued 1 or more special registration
6 plates under subsection (1) must be assessed the applicable tax
7 provided in section 801.

8 (4) The use of a special registration plate issued under this
9 section on a vehicle other than the vehicle for which the plate is
10 issued, or by a person that does not qualify under this section, is
11 a misdemeanor.

12 (5) The special registration plate issued under this section
13 expires on the birthday of the vehicle owner. When new plates are
14 issued by the secretary of state, application for renewal of the
15 special registration plate must not require a service fee under
16 section 804. The applicant is not required to furnish the proof
17 provided in subsection (2).

18 Sec. 803w. (1) An individual who was a member of the United
19 States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps may apply to the
20 secretary of state for a special registration plate that displays
21 an appropriate vignette preceding the registration numbers and has
22 the word "veteran" inscribed beneath the registration numbers.

23 (2) The application for a special registration plate must be
24 on a form prescribed by the secretary of state and accompanied by
25 any proof of the applicant having been a member of the United
26 States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps that the secretary
27 of state may require. The application for a special registration
28 plate must not require a service fee under section 804.

29 (3) Upon proper application, the secretary of state shall

1 issue 1 or more special registration plates under this section for
2 each applicant for use on a passenger vehicle. An individual who is
3 a disabled person and applies for a special registration plate
4 under this section must be issued a tab for persons with
5 disabilities as provided in section 803f for the applicant's
6 special registration plate. The secretary of state shall require
7 the same proof that the applicant is a disabled person as is
8 required for issuance of a permanent windshield placard under
9 section 675. An individual issued 1 or more special registration
10 plates under subsection (1) must be assessed the applicable tax
11 provided in section 801.

12 (4) The use of a special registration plate issued under this
13 section on a vehicle other than the vehicle for which the plate is
14 issued, or by a person that does not qualify under this section, is
15 a misdemeanor.

16 (5) The special registration plate issued under this section
17 expires on the birthday of the vehicle owner. When new plates are
18 issued by the secretary of state, application for renewal of the
19 special registration plate must not require a service fee under
20 section 804. The applicant is not required to furnish the proof
21 provided in subsection (2).