



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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REPORT CERT. SERIOUS TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

House Bill 4905 with committee amendment
First Analysis (10-19-89)

Sponsor: Rep. Kirk A. Profit
Committee: Transportation

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H.B. 4905 (10-19-89)

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

Michigan's vehicle code currently requires that a driver of a motor vehicle involved in an accident that injures or kills any person, or damages property to an apparent extent totaling \$200 or more, immediately report the accident to the nearest or most convenient police station, or a nearby police officer. The provision requiring notification when damages sustained in an accident appear to exceed \$200 was included in the code in 1967 to ensure that only accidents of a more serious nature are reported to state or local police. While \$200 or more damage to a vehicle or other property twenty years ago represented a significant amount of physical damage, today the same dollar amount of damage is sustained when a vehicle receives little more than a scratch — making the current reporting amount virtually meaningless. For this reason, some people feel the reporting amount should be raised to an amount in keeping with today's cost of living index.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The bill would amend the vehicle code to increase the amount of apparent damage (when a motor vehicle accident has occurred) for purposes of the reporting requirement from \$200 to \$400.

MCL 257.622

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

According to the Department of State Police, the bill would not affect state expenditures. (10-18-89)

ARGUMENTS:

For:

By raising the apparent damage amount for reporting certain serious accidents involving motor vehicles to \$400, the bill would give meaning to this provision. Currently, notification has to be made if apparent damages are \$200 or more. Costs to repair even a minor scratch — for instance, the type of scratch received when a car door is opened and hits another car while both are immobile — can easily reach \$200, which makes the current provision essentially meaningless.

POSITIONS:

The Department of State supports the bill. (10-17-89)

The Department of State Police supports the bill. (10-17-89)

AAA Michigan supports the bill. (10-18-89)