



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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HANDICAPPER CERTIFICATES

House Bill 5677 as passed by the House
Second Analysis (7-25-90)

Sponsor: Rep. Ilona Varga
Committee: State Affairs

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THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

Public Act 528 of 1976 amended the Michigan Vehicle Code to switch most passenger vehicle registrations from a March 31 expiration date to a system of expiration upon an applicant's birthday. It was felt that the system of yearly registration caused problems for consumers, since it resulted in inconvenience and time lost waiting in long lines. However, the expiration date for handicapper certificates is the date of issuance of the certificate. This system is contrary to the March 31 expiration policy and the birthdate expiration policy established by the legislature for passenger vehicle registration and driver's licenses. In addition, the current system for renewal of handicapper certificates results in inconvenience to the consumer by requiring the consumer to remember an arbitrary date which has no personal significance and to take at least two trips to the secretary of state's office during the year of renewal of the certificate. It has been suggested that the code be amended to reflect current policy and to provide more convenience to the consumer.

The vehicle code currently allows nonprofit organizations that provide specialized services to handicappers to receive a handicapper certificate for use in vehicles used to transport the handicappers. This provision provides a convenience for organizations that help handicappers by allowing them to have their own handicapper certificates, rather than requiring each handicapper to carry his or her certificate when riding in an organizations vehicle. However, not all organizations that provide services to handicappers are nonprofit; and some feel that other organizations should also have access to the certificates.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

Currently, under the Michigan Vehicle Code, a person with a permanent handicap is entitled to receive a certificate of identification that is valid for four years. The bill would amend this provision to require that the certificate be valid for "at least" four years, and that it expire on the handicapper's fifth birthday after the date of issuance. Under the bill, a renewal certificate would expire on the handicapper's fourth birthday after issuance. A certificate of identification could be renewed at any time within 45 days before its expiration date. Application for a new certificate could, however, be made within six months of the expiration date if the handicapper was out of state during the 45 day period, or — for good cause — was unable to apply for a certificate within the appropriate time.

The bill would also allow for-profit organizations to obtain handicapper certificates for vehicles used to transport handicappers.

MCL 267.675

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

According to the secretary of state's office, the bill would have no fiscal implications for the state. (7-25-90)

ARGUMENTS:

For:

Mich. State Law Library

The secretary of state's office issues 100,000 handicapper certificates each year. The majority of the people who receive them have cars and have to do business with the office on their birthday. The current system necessitates that handicappers visit the secretary of state's office at least twice in one year when they have to renew their handicapper certificate. The bill's expiration system would make it easier for people to remember their certificate renewal date and help consumers reduce the time spent in office lines. In addition, it will allow the processing of all materials for a consumer during one visit.

For:

There are many organizations that provide specialized services to handicappers for a profit. These organizations should be entitled to access to handicapper certificates. Handicapper certificates help provide easier access to facilities for handicappers. Organizations that provide specialized services to handicappers for a profit will be able to provide better services, via easier access to buildings and other facilities, if they have access to the certificates.

POSITIONS:

The Michigan Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America supports the bill. (7-26-90)

The Michigan Hospital Association supports the bill. (7-26-90)

The secretary of state's office supports the bill. (7-25-90)

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