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BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Fiscal Agency

Lansing, Michigan 48909

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MICHIGAN STATE LAW LIBRARY

Senate Bill 1081 (as reported without amendment)

Sponsor: Senator William Faust

Committee: State Affairs, Tourism, and Transportation

Date Completed: 10-30-90

RATIONALE

Public Act 346 of 1988 amended the Michigan Vehicle Code to require, among other things, that all motor trucks or truck tractors over 5,000 pounds and all towing or platform wrecker road service vehicles have the name, city, and state or the registered logo or emblem of the vehicle owner and lessee painted or permanently attached on the vehicle by October 25, 1990. With the exception of tow trucks and wreckers, vehicles are allowed to use removable devices of durable construction, e.g., magnetic signs, securely attached to the vehicle to meet the identification requirements. Apparently, the Department of State Police has interpreted these provisions as prohibiting the use of magnetic signs on tow truck and wreckers after October 25, 1990. It has been suggested that the deadline for compliance be extended to allow time to determine the appropriateness of permitting the use of magnetic signs on tow trucks and wreckers.

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to allow towing or platform wrecker road service vehicles to use removable devices to meet the Code's identification requirements until April 30, 1991.

MCL 257.723

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

ARGUMENTS**Supporting Argument**

Extending the deadline for complying with permanent identification requirements would spare the owners and operators of tow trucks and wreckers the expense of providing permanent identification on them until the appropriateness of using removable magnetic signs can be determined.

Opposing Argument

Requiring tow trucks and wreckers to bear permanent identification is an important deterrent to a crime that costs the public tens of thousands of dollars each year in insurance and law enforcement costs, i.e., automobile theft. Under the previous identification provisions, criminals could use magnetic signs with phony company names on otherwise unmarked tow trucks and wreckers to steal other motor vehicles. Since the signs can be removed and replaced easily, it is difficult for the police to identify and locate the truck or wrecker involved in a particular crime. The owners and operators of tow trucks and wreckers have been given two years to comply with the permanent identification requirements; there is no reason to grant a six-month extension to study the issue.

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S.B. 1081 (10-30-90)