

**SFA**

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Fiscal Agency

• Lansing, Michigan 48909

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House Bill 5677 (as reported without amendment)

Sponsor: Representative Iiona Varga

House Committee: State Affairs

Senate Committee: State Affairs, Tourism, and Transportation

Date Completed: 10-17-90

**RATIONALE**

Public Act 528 of 1976 amended the Michigan Vehicle Code to change most passenger vehicle registrations from a March 31 expiration date to a system of expiration upon an applicant's birthday. Apparently, some felt that the March 31 expiration date was inconvenient and cumbersome for all concerned. The expiration date for handicapper certificates, however, is the date of issuance of the certificate. This system for renewal of handicapper certificates is inconvenient for the consumer since a handicapper is required to make at least two trips to the Secretary of State's office during the year to renew his or her driver's license and handicapper certificate. It has been suggested that the Code be amended to provide more convenience to the handicapped consumer and reflect current policy for passenger vehicle registration and driver's licenses.

In addition, the Michigan Vehicle Code allows nonprofit organizations that provide specialized services to handicappers to receive a handicapper certificate for vehicles used to transport the handicappers. This provides a convenience for organizations that help handicappers by allowing the organizations to have their own handicapper certificates, rather than requiring each handicapper to carry his or her certificate when riding in an organization's vehicle. Not all organizations that provide services to handicappers are nonprofit, however, and some feel that these other organizations also should have access to the handicapper certificates.

**CONTENT**

The bill would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to provide that an original certificate of identification issued to a handicapper with a permanent handicap would expire on the person's fifth birthday after the date of issuance, and that a renewal certificate would expire on the person's fourth birthday after issuance. A person holding a certificate could apply for renewal at any time within 45 days before the certificate expired. If the person would be out of the State during that time, or for other good cause shown could not apply for renewal during that 45-day period, a renewal application could be made up to six months before the certificate's expiration date.

In addition, the bill would allow for-profit organizations that provide specialized services to handicappers to receive a handicapper certificate of identification for use in transporting handicappers who receive the organization's services.

MCL 257.675

**FISCAL IMPACT**

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

**ARGUMENTS****Supporting Argument**

The Secretary of State's office reportedly issues 100,000 handicapper certificates each year. The majority of the people who receive them have cars and must renew their driver's license on their birthday. The current system requires

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handicappers to visit the Secretary of State's office at least once more in one year when they have to renew their handicapper certificate. The bill's expiration system would enable handicappers to renew both their driver's license and handicapper certificate during one trip to the Secretary of State's office, thus making the renewal process much more convenient for them.

### Supporting Argument

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 would be able to provide better services, via easier access to buildings and other facilities, if they had access to the certificates.

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.