



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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CHANGE WATERCRAFT TITLE INFORMATION

RECEIVED

House Bill 4172 as introduced
First Analysis (4-1-87)

MAY 07 1987

Sponsor: Rep. Jerry C. Bartnik Mich. State Law Library
Committee: Marine Affairs and Port Development

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

Michigan's watercraft title law was modeled after Ohio's law. One of the requirements of the Ohio watercraft title law was that both an application for title and a certificate of title include the name and address of the applicant or owner, the name and address of the previous owner, the name and address of any holder of a lien on the watercraft, and a description of the watercraft. The Secretary of State believes that there is no reason for identifying the previous owner on the face of a watercraft title, and has requested legislation allowing this information to be deleted.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The bill would amend Public Act 160 of 1976, which regulates the transfer of watercraft, to delete the requirement that a certificate of title for watercraft contain the name and address of the previous owner (MCL 281.1208).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

According to the Secretary of State, there are no fiscal implications to the state (3-31-87).

ARGUMENTS:

For:

Having the previous owner's name and address on the face of a watercraft title serves no useful purpose and merely decreases the readability of the title. While such information is useful on an application for a title, by helping the Secretary of State to trace the ownership of a watercraft (particularly should it be stolen), requiring this information on the title itself simply is a carryover from the Ohio law on which Michigan's law is based. The requirement ought to be eliminated in the interests of simplicity and readability.

POSITIONS:

The Secretary of State supports the bill (3-31-87).

H.B. 4172 (4-1-87)