



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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CHANGE VANITY PLATE REGIS. DATE

House Bill 4238 with committee amendment
First Analysis (3-26-87)

RECEIVED

Sponsor: Rep. Lynn Owen
Committee: Transportation

APR 14 1987

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THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

The Secretary of State believes that efficiency and fairness in handling personalized and amateur radio operator registration plates needs improvement, and has requested legislation to implement changes.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The Michigan Vehicle Code provides that amateur ("ham") radio operators may apply for vehicle registration plates inscribed with the applicant's radio license numbers. The bill would amend the code so that the fees collected for this service would be credited to the Michigan Transportation Fund. The bill would also amend the code to change the expiration dates of both personalized ("vanity") and ham operator registrations from March 31 to that of the registrant's birthday.

In addition, the bill would prorate on a monthly basis the \$25 annual service fee for personalized registrations issued for less than one year. Under the bill, the Secretary of State would be allowed to issue a temporary permit for personalized registration application in cases where the personalized registration would not be manufactured before the expiration of the regular registration. The temporary permit would be issued at no charge and would be valid for no more than 60 days (MCL 257.217a and 257.803b).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

According to the House Fiscal Agency the bill has no fiscal implications to the state (3-25-87).

ARGUMENTS:

For:

Under present law, both personalized (or "vanity") registrations and amateur ("ham") radio operator registrations expire on March 31. The Secretary of State processes approximately 14,000 personalized registrations and 2,000 ham radio operator registrations a year. Allowing the department to accept registrations on a year-round basis, based on the birth date of the registrant, would help speed processing of these applications and would be more convenient for the applicants.

For:

Since vanity and ham radio operator registration plates are made on a special order basis for each registration, allowing the Secretary of State to issue a temporary permit (for no extra charge) for applications when the special plates would not be manufactured prior to the expiration of the regular registration would insure that the applicants did not suffer a lapse in their registrations.

For:

Allowing the Secretary of State to prorate the \$25 service fee for special registrations, either personalized or ham radio operator, would be fairer to applicants applying for registrations expiring in less than a year than charging them the full yearly fee.

POSITIONS:

The Secretary of State supports the bill (3-25-87).

H.B. 4238 (3-26-87)