SFA BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Fiscal Agency   •   Lansing, Michigan 48909   •   (517) 373-5383

House Bill 4172 (as reported without amendment)
Sponsor: Representative Jerry C. Bartnik
House Committee: Marine Affairs and Port Development
Senate Committee: Regulatory Affairs

Date Completed: 6-1-87

RATIONALE

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.

CONTENT

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 IMPACT

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

ARGUMENTS

Supporting Argument

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 if it is 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.

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