

**SUBSTITUTE FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 4086**

A bill to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled  
"Michigan vehicle code,"  
by amending section 255 (MCL 257.255), as amended by 1987 PA 34.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1       Sec. 255. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter,  
2 a person shall not operate, nor shall an owner knowingly permit  
3 to be operated, upon any highway, a vehicle required to be  
4 registered under this act unless there is attached to and  
5 displayed on the vehicle, as required by this chapter, a valid  
6 registration plate issued for the vehicle by the department for  
7 the current registration year. A registration plate shall not be  
8 required upon any wrecked or disabled vehicle, or vehicle  
9 destined for repair or junking, which is being transported or  
10 drawn upon a highway by a wrecker or a registered motor vehicle.

11       (2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person

1 who violates subsection (1) is ~~guilty of a misdemeanor,~~  
2 ~~punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or by a~~  
3 ~~fine of not more than \$100.00, or both~~ **responsible for a civil**  
4 **infraction.** However, if the vehicle is a commercial vehicle  
5 which is required to be registered according to the schedule of  
6 elected gross vehicle weights under section 801(1)(k), the ~~fine~~  
7 ~~which may be imposed shall not exceed~~ **person is guilty of a**  
8 **misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90 days**  
9 **or a fine of not more than \$500.00, or both.**

10 (3) A person who operates a vehicle licensed under the  
11 international registration plan and does not have a valid  
12 registration due to nonpayment of the apportioned fee is guilty  
13 of a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90  
14 days, or by a fine of not more than \$100.00, or both. In  
15 addition, a police officer may impound the vehicle until a valid  
16 registration is obtained. If the vehicle is impounded, the  
17 towing and storage costs of the vehicle, and the care or  
18 preservation of the load in the vehicle shall be the owner's  
19 responsibility. Vehicles impounded shall be subject to a lien in  
20 the amount of the apportioned fee and any fine and costs incurred  
21 under this subsection, subject to a valid lien of prior record.  
22 If the apportioned fee, fine, and costs are not paid within 90  
23 days after impoundment, then following a hearing before the judge  
24 or magistrate who imposed the fine and costs, the judge or  
25 magistrate shall certify the unpaid judgment to the prosecuting  
26 attorney of the county in which the violation occurred. The  
27 prosecuting attorney shall enforce the lien by foreclosure sale

1 in accordance with the procedure authorized by law for chattel  
2 mortgage foreclosures.

3 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect  
4 September 1, 2003.