

Act No. 290  
Public Acts of 2014  
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**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
97TH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2014**

**Introduced by Senators Nofs, Robertson, Jones, Marleau, Ananich and Meekhof**

# **ENROLLED SENATE BILL No. 916**

AN ACT to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled "An act to provide for the registration, titling, sale, transfer, and regulation of certain vehicles operated upon the public highways of this state or any other place open to the general public or generally accessible to motor vehicles and distressed vehicles; to provide for the licensing of dealers; to provide for the examination, licensing, and control of operators and chauffeurs; to provide for the giving of proof of financial responsibility and security by owners and operators of vehicles; to provide for the imposition, levy, and collection of specific taxes on vehicles, and the levy and collection of sales and use taxes, license fees, and permit fees; to provide for the regulation and use of streets and highways; to create certain funds; to provide penalties and sanctions for a violation of this act; to provide for civil liability of manufacturers, the manufacturers of automated technology, upfitters, owners, and operators of vehicles and service of process on residents and nonresidents; to regulate the introduction and use of certain evidence; to provide for the levy of certain assessments; to provide for the enforcement of this act; to provide for the creation of and to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state and local agencies; to impose liability upon the state or local agencies; to provide appropriations for certain purposes; to repeal all other acts or parts of acts inconsistent with this act or contrary to this act; and to repeal certain parts of this act on a specific date," by amending sections 217, 222, 229, and 233 (MCL 257.217, 257.222, 257.229, and 257.233), section 217 as amended by 2012 PA 498, section 222 as amended by 2004 PA 493, section 229 as amended by 1988 PA 276, and section 233 as amended by 2006 PA 599.

*The People of the State of Michigan enact:*

Sec. 217. (1) An owner of a vehicle that is subject to registration under this act shall apply to the secretary of state, upon an appropriate form furnished by the secretary of state, for the registration of the vehicle and issuance of a certificate of title for the vehicle. A vehicle brought into this state from another state or jurisdiction that has a rebuilt, salvage, scrap, flood, or comparable certificate of title issued by that other state or jurisdiction shall be issued a rebuilt, salvage, scrap, or flood certificate of title by the secretary of state. The application shall be accompanied by the required fee. An application for a certificate of title shall bear the signature or verification and certification of the owner. The application shall contain all of the following:

- (a) The owner's name, the owner's bona fide residence, and either of the following:
  - (i) If the owner is an individual, the owner's mailing address.
  - (ii) If the owner is a firm, association, partnership, limited liability company, or corporation, the owner's business address.

- (b) A description of the vehicle including the make or name, style of body, and model year; the number of miles, not including the tenths of a mile, registered on the vehicle's odometer at the time of transfer; whether the vehicle is a flood vehicle or another state previously issued the vehicle a flood certificate of title; whether the vehicle is to be or has been used as a taxi or police vehicle, or by a political subdivision of this state, unless the vehicle is owned by a dealer and loaned or leased to a political subdivision of this state for use as a driver education vehicle; whether the vehicle has

previously been issued a salvage or rebuilt certificate of title from this state or a comparable certificate of title from any other state or jurisdiction; vehicle identification number; and the vehicle's weight fully equipped, if a passenger vehicle registered in accordance with section 801(1)(a), and, if a trailer coach or pickup camper, in addition to the weight, the manufacturer's serial number, or in the absence of the serial number, a number assigned by the secretary of state. A number assigned by the secretary of state shall be permanently placed on the trailer coach or pickup camper in the manner and place designated by the secretary of state.

(c) A statement of the applicant's title and the names and addresses of the holders of security interests in the vehicle and in an accessory to the vehicle, in the order of their priority.

(d) Further information that the secretary of state reasonably requires to enable the secretary of state to determine whether the vehicle is lawfully entitled to registration and the owner entitled to a certificate of title. If the secretary of state is not satisfied as to the ownership of a vehicle having a value over \$2,500.00 or that is less than 10 years old, before registering the vehicle and issuing a certificate of title, the secretary of state may require the applicant to file a properly executed surety bond in a form prescribed by the secretary of state and executed by the applicant and a company authorized to conduct a surety business in this state. The bond shall be in an amount equal to twice the value of the vehicle as determined by the secretary of state and shall be conditioned to indemnify or reimburse the secretary of state, any prior owner, and any subsequent purchaser or lessee of the vehicle and their successors in interest against any expense, loss, or damage, including reasonable attorney's fees, by reason of the issuance of a certificate of title for the vehicle or on account of any defect in the right, title, or interest of the applicant in the vehicle. An interested person has a right of action to recover on the bond for a breach of the conditions of the bond, but the aggregate liability of the surety to all persons shall not exceed the amount of the bond. If the secretary of state is not satisfied as to the ownership of a vehicle that is valued at \$2,500.00 or less and that is 10 years old or older, the secretary of state shall require the applicant to certify that the applicant is the owner of the vehicle and entitled to register and title the vehicle.

(e) Except as provided in subdivision (f), an application for a commercial vehicle shall also have attached a scale weight receipt of the motor vehicle fully equipped as of the time the application is made. A scale weight receipt is not necessary if there is presented with the application a registration receipt of the previous year that shows on its face the empty weight of the motor vehicle as registered with the secretary of state that is accompanied by a statement of the applicant that there has not been structural change in the motor vehicle that has increased the empty weight and that the previous registered weight is the true weight.

(f) An application for registration of a vehicle on the basis of elected gross weight shall include a declaration by the applicant specifying the elected gross weight for which application is being made.

(g) If the application is for a certificate of title of a motor vehicle registered in accordance with section 801(1)(p), the application shall include the manufacturer's suggested base list price for the model year of the vehicle. The base list price shall be the manufacturer's suggested retail price as shown on the label required to be affixed to the vehicle under 15 USC 1232. If the manufacturer's suggested retail price is unavailable, the application shall list the purchase price of the vehicle as defined in section 801.

(2) An applicant for registration of a leased pickup truck or passenger vehicle that is subject to registration under this act, except a vehicle that is subject to a registration fee under section 801g, shall disclose in writing to the secretary of state the lessee's name, the lessee's bona fide residence, and either of the following:

(a) If the lessee is an individual, the lessee's Michigan driver license number or Michigan personal identification number or, if the lessee does not have a Michigan driver license or Michigan personal identification number, the lessee's mailing address.

(b) If the lessee is a firm, association, partnership, limited liability company, or corporation, the lessee's business address.

(3) The secretary of state shall maintain the information described in subsection (2) on the secretary of state's computer records.

(4) Except as provided in subsection (5), a dealer selling, leasing, or exchanging vehicles required to be titled, within 15 days after delivering a vehicle to the purchaser or lessee, and a person engaged in the sale of vessels required to be numbered by part 801 of the natural resources and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.80101 to 324.80199, within 15 days after delivering a boat trailer weighing less than 2,500 pounds to the purchaser or lessee, shall apply to the secretary of state for a new title, if required, and transfer or secure registration plates and secure a certificate of registration for the vehicle or boat trailer, in the name of the purchaser or lessee. The dealer's license may be suspended or revoked in accordance with section 249 for failure to apply for a title when required or for failure to transfer or secure registration plates and certificate of registration within the 15 days required by this section. If the dealer or person fails to apply for a title when required, and to transfer or secure registration plates and secure a certificate of registration and pay the required fees within 15 days of delivery of the vehicle or boat trailer, a title and registration for the vehicle or boat trailer may subsequently be acquired only upon the payment of a late transfer fee of \$15.00 for an individual or a dealer other than a dealer subject to section 235b in addition to the fees specified in section 806. For a used or secondhand vehicle dealer subject to section 235b, the late transfer fee is \$100.00 in addition

to the fees specified in section 806. The purchaser or lessee of the vehicle or the purchaser of the boat trailer shall sign the application, including, if applicable, the declaration specifying the maximum elected gross weight as required by subsection (1)(f), and other necessary papers to enable the dealer or person to secure the title, registration plates, and transfers from the secretary of state. If the secretary of state mails or delivers a purchaser's certificate of title to a dealer, the dealer shall mail or deliver the certificate of title to the purchaser not more than 5 days after receiving the certificate of title from the secretary of state. However, as provided under section 238, the secretary of state is not required to issue a title to the owner of a vehicle or lienholder if the title is subject to a security interest.

(5) A dealer selling or exchanging an off lease or buy back vehicle shall apply to the secretary of state for a new title for the vehicle within 15 days after it receives the certificate of title from the lessor or manufacturer under section 235 or section 235b and transfer or secure registration plates and secure a certificate of registration for the vehicle in the name of the purchaser. The dealer's license may be suspended or revoked in accordance with section 249 for failure to apply for a title when required or for failure to transfer or secure registration plates and certificate of registration within the 15-day period. If the dealer or person fails to apply for a title when required, and to transfer or secure registration plates and secure a certificate of registration and pay the required fees within the 15-day time period, a title and registration for the vehicle may subsequently be acquired only upon the payment of a late transfer fee of \$15.00 for an individual or dealer other than a used or secondhand vehicle dealer subject to section 235b in addition to the fees specified in section 806. The late transfer fee for a used or secondhand vehicle dealer subject to section 235b is \$100.00 in addition to the fees specified in section 806. The purchaser of the vehicle shall sign the application, including, if applicable, the declaration specifying the maximum elected gross weight as required by subsection (1)(f), and other necessary papers to enable the dealer or person to secure the title, registration plates, and transfers from the secretary of state. If the secretary of state mails or delivers a purchaser's certificate of title to a dealer, the dealer shall mail or deliver the certificate of title to the purchaser not more than 5 days after receiving the certificate of title from the secretary of state. However, as provided under section 238, the secretary of state is not required to issue a title to the owner of a vehicle if the title is subject to a security interest.

(6) If a vehicle is delivered to a purchaser or lessee who has valid Michigan registration plates that are to be transferred to the vehicle, and an application for title, if required, and registration for the vehicle is not made before delivery of the vehicle to the purchaser or lessee, the registration plates shall be affixed to the vehicle immediately, and the dealer shall provide the purchaser or lessee with an instrument in writing, on a form prescribed by the secretary of state, which shall serve as a temporary registration for the vehicle for a period of 15 days from the date the vehicle is delivered.

(7) If the seller does not prepare the credit information, contract note, and mortgage, and the holder, finance company, credit union, or banking institution requires the installment seller to record the lien on the title, the holder, finance company, credit union, or banking institution shall pay the seller a service fee of not more than \$10.00. The service fee shall be paid from the finance charges and shall not be charged to the buyer in addition to the finance charges. The holder, finance company, credit union, or banking institution shall issue its check or bank draft for the principal amount financed, payable jointly to the buyer and seller, and there shall be imprinted on the back side of the check or bank draft the following:

“Under Michigan law, the seller must record a first lien in favor of (name of lender) \_\_\_\_\_ on the vehicle with vehicle identification number \_\_\_\_\_ and title the vehicle only in the name(s) shown on the reverse side.”

(8) On the front of the check or draft described under subsection (7), the holder, finance company, credit union, or banking institution shall note the name or names of the prospective owners. Failure of the holder, finance company, credit union, or banking institution to comply with these requirements frees the seller from any obligation to record the lien or from any liability that may arise as a result of the failure to record the lien. A service fee shall not be charged to the buyer.

(9) In the absence of actual malice proved independently and not inferred from lack of probable cause, a person who in any manner causes a prosecution for larceny of a motor vehicle; for embezzlement of a motor vehicle; for any crime an element of which is the taking of a motor vehicle without authority; or for buying, receiving, possessing, leasing, or aiding in the concealment of a stolen, embezzled, or converted motor vehicle knowing that the motor vehicle has been stolen, embezzled, or converted, is not liable for damages in a civil action for causing the prosecution. This subsection does not relieve a person from proving any other element necessary to sustain his or her cause of action.

(10) Receipt by the secretary of state of a properly tendered application for a certificate of title on which a security interest in a vehicle is to be indicated is a condition of perfection of a security interest in the vehicle and is equivalent to filing a financing statement under the uniform commercial code, 1962 PA 174, MCL 440.1101 to 440.9994, with respect to the vehicle. When a security interest in a vehicle is perfected, it has priority over the rights of a lien creditor as lien creditor is defined in section 9102 of the uniform commercial code, 1962 PA 174, MCL 440.9102.

Sec. 222. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this act, the secretary of state shall issue a registration certificate when registering a vehicle upon receipt of the required fees. Except as otherwise provided in this act, the secretary of state shall issue a certificate of title, unless a security interest is entered electronically under section 238, upon receipt

of the required fees. The secretary of state shall issue a flood, rebuilt, rebuilt salvage, salvage, or scrap certificate of title for a vehicle brought into this state from another state or jurisdiction that has a flood, rebuilt, salvage, or scrap certificate of title issued by that other state or jurisdiction.

(2) The secretary of state shall deliver the registration certificate to the owner. The certificate shall contain on its face the date issued, the name and address of the owner, the registration number assigned to the vehicle, and a description of the vehicle as determined by the secretary of state.

(3) The certificate of title shall be manufactured in a manner to prohibit as nearly as possible the ability to reproduce, alter, counterfeit, forge, or duplicate the certificate of title without ready detection. The certificate shall contain all of the following on its face:

(a) The identical information required on the face of the registration certificate.

(b) If the vehicle is a motor vehicle, the number of miles, not including the tenths of a mile, registered on the vehicle's odometer at the time of transfer.

(c) Whether the vehicle is to be used or has been used as a taxi, as a police vehicle, or by a political subdivision of this state, unless the vehicle is owned by a dealer and loaned or leased to a political subdivision of this state for use as a driver education vehicle.

(d) Whether the vehicle is a salvage vehicle.

(e) If the vehicle has previously been issued a rebuilt certificate of title from this state or a comparable certificate of title from any other state or jurisdiction.

(f) Whether the vehicle has been issued a scrap certificate of title from this state or a comparable certificate of title from any other state or jurisdiction.

(g) Whether the vehicle is a flood vehicle or has previously been issued a flood certificate of title from this state or any other state or jurisdiction.

(h) Whether the owner or co-owner or lessee or co-lessee of the vehicle is subject to registration denial under section 219(1)(d).

(i) A statement of the owner's title and of all security interests in the vehicle or in an accessory on the vehicle as set forth in the application.

(j) The date that the application was filed.

(k) Any other information that the secretary of state may require.

(4) The certificate of title shall contain a form for assignment of title or interest and warranty of title by the owner with space for the notation of a security interest in the vehicle and in an accessory on the vehicle, which at the time of a transfer shall be certified and signed, and space for a written odometer mileage statement that is required upon transfer under section 233a. The certificate of title shall include a description of the proper procedure for transferring the title of a motor vehicle and for maintaining records of that transfer as provided under this act, including, but not limited to, the electronic lien title system established under section 241. The certificate of title may also contain other forms that the secretary of state considers necessary to facilitate the effective administration of this act. The certificate shall bear the coat of arms of this state.

(5) The secretary of state shall mail or deliver the certificate of title to the owner or other person as the owner may direct in a separate instrument, in a form prescribed by the secretary of state. However, as provided under section 238, the secretary of state is not required to issue a title to the owner of a vehicle if the title is subject to a security interest.

(6) A person who intentionally reproduces, alters, counterfeits, forges, or duplicates a certificate of title or a document releasing a security interest or who uses a reproduced, altered, counterfeited, forged, or duplicated certificate of title or document releasing a security interest shall be punished as follows:

(a) If the intent of reproduction, alteration, counterfeiting, forging, duplication, or use was to commit or aid in the commission of an offense punishable by imprisonment for 1 or more years, the person committing the reproduction, alteration, counterfeiting, forging, duplication, or use is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for a period equal to that which could be imposed for the commission of the offense the person had the intent to aid or commit. The court may also assess a fine of not more than \$10,000.00 against the person.

(b) If the intent of the reproduction, alteration, counterfeiting, forging, duplication, or use was to commit or aid in the commission of an offense punishable by imprisonment for not more than 1 year, the person committing the reproduction, alteration, counterfeiting, forging, duplication, or use is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for not more than 1 year, or a fine of not more than \$1,000.00, or both.

(7) The certificate of title for a police vehicle, a vehicle owned by a political subdivision of this state, a salvage vehicle, a rebuilt vehicle, a scrap vehicle, or a flood vehicle shall be different in color from the certificate of title for all other vehicles unless the vehicle is loaned or leased to a political subdivision of this state for use as a driver education vehicle.

(8) A scrap certificate of title shall contain a legend that the vehicle is not to be titled or registered and is to be used for parts or scrap metal only.

(9) A certificate of title shall not be issued for a vehicle that has had a salvage certificate of title unless the certificate of title contains the legend "rebuilt salvage".

Sec. 229. (1) If a registration certificate, registration plate, certificate of title, or duplicate certificate of title is lost, mutilated, or becomes illegible, the person entitled to possession of a registration certificate, registration plate, certificate of title, or duplicate certificate of title or the legal representative or successor in interest of that person as shown by the records of the department shall immediately make application for and may obtain a duplicate or a new registration under a new registration number, as determined to be most advisable by the department, upon the applicant furnishing information satisfactory to the department and upon payment of the required fee. Every duplicate certificate of title shall contain the legend: "This is a duplicate certificate and may be subject to the rights of a person under the original certificate", and shall be delivered to the person entitled to possession of a registration certificate or certificate of title under section 222. Upon issuance of a duplicate registration certificate or plate, the previous registration certificate or plate last issued shall be void.

(2) If a certificate of title is lost at the time that ownership of the vehicle is to be transferred to another person, the secretary of state need not issue a duplicate certificate of title if all of the following are met:

(a) The person from whom ownership of the vehicle is to be transferred appears in person at a secretary of state office and supplies evidence satisfactory to the secretary of state of his or her identity and his or her ownership of the vehicle and pays the fee required under section 806.

(b) The person to whom the vehicle is to be transferred, or his or her legal representative, accompanies the person described under subdivision (a) and makes application for an original certificate of title, supplies evidence satisfactory to the secretary of state of his or her identity, and pays the fee required under section 806.

(3) If the secretary of state does not issue a duplicate certificate of title under subsection (2), the secretary of state's records shall indicate the transfer of the vehicle without a surrender of the certificate of title.

(4) As provided under section 238, the secretary of state is not required to issue a duplicate title to the owner of a vehicle if the duplicate title is subject to a security interest.

Sec. 233. (1) If the owner of a registered vehicle transfers or assigns the title or interest in the vehicle, the registration plates issued for the vehicle shall be removed and transferred to the owner's spouse, mother, father, sister, brother, or child to whom title or interest in the vehicle is transferred, or retained and preserved by the owner for transfer to another vehicle upon application and payment of the required fees. A person shall not transfer the plates to a vehicle without applying for a proper certificate of registration describing the vehicle to which the plates are being transferred, except as provided in section 217(4). If the owner of a registered vehicle acquires another vehicle without transferring or assigning the title or interest in the vehicle for which the plates were issued, the owner may have the plates transferred to the subsequently acquired vehicle upon application and payment of the required fees.

(2) A person shall not purchase or lease another vehicle or an interest in another vehicle with the intent to circumvent the restrictions created by immobilization of a vehicle under this act.

(3) A person shall not transfer or attempt to transfer ownership or right of possession of a vehicle subject to forfeiture or ordered forfeited under this act with the intent to avoid the forfeiture of that vehicle.

(4) During the time a vehicle is subject to a temporary registration plate, vehicle forfeiture, immobilization, registration denial, or the period from adjudication to immobilization or forfeiture under this act, a person shall not without a court order transfer or assign the title or an interest in the vehicle to a person who is not subject to payment of a use tax under section 3 of the use tax act, 1937 PA 94, MCL 205.93.

(5) A person who violates subsection (2), (3), or (4) is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 1 year or a fine of not more than \$1,000.00, or both.

(6) A person whose operator's or chauffeur's license is suspended, revoked, or denied for, or who has never been licensed by this state and was convicted for, a third or subsequent violation of section 625 or 625m, of a local ordinance substantially corresponding to section 625 or 625m, or of a law of another state substantially corresponding to section 625 or 625m, or for a fourth or subsequent suspension or revocation under section 904 shall not purchase, lease, or otherwise acquire a motor vehicle during the suspension, revocation, or denial period. A person who violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 93 days or a fine of not more than \$100.00, or both.

(7) If the assigned holder of registration plates applies for a new registration certificate, the application shall be accompanied either by the old registration certificate or by a certificate of title showing the person to be the assigned holder of the registration plates for which the old registration certificate had been issued. A person who fails or neglects to fulfill the requirements of this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 93 days or a fine of not more than \$100.00, or both.



(8) The owner shall indorse on the certificate of title as required by the secretary of state an assignment of the title with warranty of title in the form printed on the certificate with a statement of all security interests in the vehicle or in accessories on the vehicle and deliver or cause the certificate to be mailed or delivered to the purchaser or transferee at the time of the delivery to the purchaser or transferee of the vehicle. The certificate shall show the payment or satisfaction of any security interest as shown on the original title. However, as provided under section 238, the secretary of state is not required to issue a title to the owner of a vehicle if the title is subject to a security interest.

(9) Upon the delivery of a motor vehicle and the transfer, sale, or assignment of the title or interest in a motor vehicle by a person, including a dealer, the effective date of the transfer of title or interest in the vehicle is the date of signature on either the application for title or the assignment of the certificate of title by the purchaser, transferee, or assignee.

(10) A secured receipt that is in a form approved by the department and produced at the time the secured interest is presented with payment in satisfaction of the security interest may be submitted to the department in lieu of the title for purposes of transferring ownership in the vehicle.

Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect unless both of the following bills of the 97th Legislature are enacted into law:

- (a) Senate Bill No. 917.
- (b) Senate Bill No. 918.

*Carol Morey Viventi*

Secretary of the Senate

*Jay E. Randall*

Clerk of the House of Representatives

Approved .....

.....  
Governor