

# SENATE BILL NO. 878

May 22, 2024, Introduced by Senator CHERRY and referred to the Committee on Regulatory Affairs.

A bill to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled  
"Michigan vehicle code,"  
by amending section 244 (MCL 257.244), as amended by 2013 PA 231.

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

1           Sec. 244. (1) A manufacturer owning a vehicle ~~of a type~~  
2 otherwise required to be registered under this act may operate or  
3 move the vehicle ~~upon~~**on** a street or highway primarily for the  
4 purposes of transporting or testing or in connection with a golf  
5 tournament or a public civic event, if the vehicle displays, ~~in the~~  
6 ~~manner~~**as** prescribed ~~in~~**under** section 225, 1 special plate approved  
7 by the secretary of state.

1           (2) A producer of a vehicle subcomponent system essential to  
2 the operation of the vehicle or the safety of an occupant may  
3 operate or move a motor vehicle ~~upon~~**on** a street or highway solely  
4 to transport or test the subcomponent system if the motor vehicle  
5 displays, ~~in the manner~~**as** prescribed ~~in~~**under** section 225, 1  
6 special plate approved by the secretary of state. To be eligible  
7 for the special plate, the subcomponent system producer must be  
8 either a recognized subcomponent system producer or must be a  
9 subcomponent system producer under contract with a vehicle  
10 manufacturer.

11           (3) Subject to section 665, a manufacturer of automated  
12 technology may operate or otherwise move a motor vehicle or an  
13 automated motor vehicle ~~upon~~**on** a street or highway solely to  
14 transport or test automated technology if the motor vehicle or  
15 automated motor vehicle displays, ~~in the manner~~**as** prescribed ~~in~~  
16 **under** section 225, a special plate approved by the secretary of  
17 state.

18           (4) A dealer owning a vehicle ~~of a type~~ otherwise required to  
19 be registered under this act may operate or move the vehicle ~~upon~~  
20 **on** a street or highway without registering the vehicle if the  
21 vehicle displays, ~~in the manner~~**as** prescribed ~~in~~**under** section 225,  
22 1 special plate issued to the owner by the secretary of state. **A**  
23 **vehicle owned by a new vehicle dealer otherwise required to be**  
24 **registered under this act may operate or move on a street or**  
25 **highway in connection with a golf tournament, charity event, or**  
26 **public civic event if the vehicle displays, as prescribed under**  
27 **section 225, 1 special plate approved by the secretary of state.** As  
28 used in this subsection, "dealer" includes an employee, servant, or  
29 agent of the dealer.

1           (5) **The department may issue additional special plates to use**  
2 **under this section.**

3           (6) ~~(5) Solely to deliver the vehicle, a~~ **A** transporter may  
4 operate or move a vehicle ~~of a type~~ otherwise required to be  
5 registered under this act ~~upon~~ **on** a street or highway **solely to**  
6 **deliver the vehicle** if the vehicle displays, ~~in the manner as~~  
7 prescribed ~~in~~ **under** section 225, a special plate issued to the  
8 transporter under this chapter.

9           (7) ~~(6)~~ A licensee shall not use a special plate described in  
10 this section on service cars or wreckers operated as an adjunct of  
11 a licensee's business. A manufacturer, transporter, or dealer  
12 making or permitting any unauthorized use of a special plate under  
13 this chapter forfeits the right to use special plates and the  
14 secretary of state, after notice and a hearing, may suspend or  
15 cancel the right to use special plates and require that the special  
16 plates be surrendered to or repossessed by ~~the~~ **this** state.

17           (8) ~~(7)~~ A transporter shall furnish a sufficient surety bond  
18 or policy of insurance as protection for public liability and  
19 property damage as may be required by the secretary of state.

20           (9) ~~(8)~~ The secretary of state shall determine the number of  
21 plates a manufacturer, dealer, or transporter reasonably needs in  
22 ~~his or her~~ **its** business.

23           (10) ~~(9)~~ If a vehicle that is required to be registered under  
24 this act is leased or sold, the vendee or lessee ~~is permitted to~~  
25 **may** operate the vehicle ~~upon~~ **on** a street or highway for not more  
26 than 72 hours after taking possession if the vehicle has a dealer  
27 plate attached as provided ~~in~~ **under** this section. The application  
28 for registration ~~shall~~ **must** be made in the name of the vendee or  
29 lessee before the vehicle is used. The dealer and the vendee or

1 lessee are jointly responsible for the return of the dealer plate  
 2 to the dealer within 72 hours. ~~, and the failure of the~~ **The** vendee  
 3 or lessee **that fails** to return or the vendor or lessor **that fails**  
 4 to use due diligence to procure the dealer plate is **guilty of** a  
 5 misdemeanor, and ~~in addition~~ the license of the dealer may be  
 6 revoked. While using a dealer's plate, a vendee or lessee shall  
 7 have in ~~his or her~~ **the vendee's or lessee's** possession proof that  
 8 clearly indicates the date of sale or lease of the motor vehicle.

9 **(11)** ~~(10)~~ A vehicle owned by a dealer and bearing the dealer's  
 10 plate may be driven ~~upon~~ **on** a street or highway for demonstration  
 11 purposes by a prospective buyer or lessee for a period of 72 hours.

12 **(12)** ~~(11)~~ The secretary of state may issue a registration  
 13 plate upon application and payment of the proper fee to an  
 14 individual, partnership, corporation, or association that in the  
 15 ordinary course of business has occasion to legally pick up or  
 16 deliver a commercial motor vehicle being driven to a facility to  
 17 undergo aftermarket modification, or to repair or service a  
 18 vehicle, or to persons defined as watercraft dealers under part 801  
 19 of the natural resources and environmental protection act, 1994 PA  
 20 451, MCL 324.80101 to 324.80199, or to the owner of a marina ~~for~~  
 21 ~~the purpose of delivering~~ **to deliver** a vessel or trailer to a  
 22 purchaser, to transport a vessel between a body of water and a  
 23 place of storage, to transport a vessel or trailer to and from a  
 24 boat show or exposition, to repair, service, or store a vessel or  
 25 trailer, or to return a vessel or trailer to the customer after  
 26 repair, service, or storage. A registration plate issued under this  
 27 subsection ~~shall~~ **must** be used to move the vehicle or trailer.