

HCS SB 543 -- MOTOR VEHICLES

SPONSOR: Stouffer (St. Onge)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Transportation by a vote of 9 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding the reissuance of license plates. Currently, the reissuance must begin January 1, 2009. The substitute allows the Director of the Department of Revenue more discretion on when to begin the reissuance as long as it occurs no later than January 1, 2009.

All new signs erected after August 28, 2007, relating to disabled parking must contain the words "Accessible Parking" instead of "Handicap Parking."

Motor vehicle license plates are allowed to be encased in a transparent cover if the plate is plainly visible and its reflective qualities are not impaired.

The substitute also requires that if a motor vehicle owner is exempt from submitting proof of a motor vehicle safety inspection, the owner must submit an affidavit stating that the motor vehicle has less than 50,000 miles and is less than five years old.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill clearly specifies that the reissuance will commence by January 1, 2009.

Testifying for the bill was Senator Stouffer.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.