



# Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee

## Special Meeting Minutes

Date: April 4, 2024

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location: Virtual

### Present for MSPAC

Chuck Nelson; Clinton County  
Ann Conklin; Wayne County  
Chris Graham; Washtenaw County  
Bob Hoffmeyer; Lee County, Florida  
Mary Pitcher; Benzi County  
Nichole Fisher; Ingham County  
Carol Rose; Montmorency County  
Sarah Scheitz; Ingham County  
Mike McDonald; Ingham County  
Colin Pearson; Ingham County

### Absent:

Jim Bradley  
Julie Clark

### Present for the Department of Natural Resources:

Ron Olson, Chief  
Taylor Ridderbusch  
Jacklin Blodgett  
Jason Fleming  
Scott Pratt  
Vicki McGhee  
Tim Novak  
Barbara Graves

### Others Present:

Amy Scharmen-Burgdolf  
Jenny Cook

Vice Chair Nelson called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. then conducted a roll call.

The next item on the agenda was the Recreation Passport – Proposed Opt-Out Legislation. Taylor Ridderbusch, Executive Policy Advisory and Legislative Liaison for the Department of Natural Resources, introduced himself and said his main focus right now is the Recreation Passport opt-out proposal as it is part of the Governor’s budget cycle.

He continued with explaining the differences with the original introduced bill and the substitute bill. The original bill had everyone paying for the Recreation Passport when renewing a vehicle registration and having to mail in a rebate form to get the \$14 back if they did not want it. After conversations with legislators and stakeholders this has changed. The change will include on paper, online forms, and kiosks the following three options: 1) the vehicle registration amount plus the \$14 Recreation Passport, 2) renew vehicle registration, purchase the Recreation Passport and also give a \$15 donation to state parks, and 3) to decline the Recreation Passport and just renew the vehicle registration. Context will be added to explain what the Recreation Passport is, what it does, and what it gets. Taylor displayed an example of the proposed online Secretary of State form which included the three options.

HB5428 is going through the appropriations process due to it being part of the governor’s recommended budget. It is anticipated that the substitute will go before the appropriations subcommittee within the next few weeks. Then it will go to the full appropriations committee, then to the House and Senate, and then to conference committee, with a hope to have it passed by the end of June with the rest of the budget.

If anyone would like to advocate for the opt-out model, Taylor recommended making a phone call or sending an e-mail to their legislator stating support of the opt-out model of the Recreation Passport substitute bill. If anyone would like to participate in the legislative appropriations hearings, they are typically scheduled for Tuesdays and you are able to make public comment there as well.

There was discussion and questions by members of the committee to which Taylor Ridderbusch and Chief Olson answered.

After discussions, Vice Chair Nelson asked for a motion to support the current opt-out model substitute bill as presented. Member Conklin made a motion to support, it was seconded by Member Graham. The motion to support the current opt-out model was passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was public comment.

Jenny Cook, Equine Trails Subcommittee member, spoke in support of the opt-out model.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Next regular meeting: April 17, 2024

DRAFT 2  
**SUBSTITUTE FOR**  
**HOUSE BILL NO. 5428**

A bill to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled  
"Michigan vehicle code,"  
by amending section 805 (MCL 257.805), as amended by 2021 PA 96.

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

1           Sec. 805. (1) An applicant for the issuance or renewal of a  
2 motor vehicle registration or for a replacement registration tab or  
3 sticker may submit a ~~state park and state-operated public boating~~  
4 ~~access site~~ **recreation** passport fee to the secretary of state with  
5 the application. Subject to subsection ~~(7)~~, **(8)**, the amount of the  
6 recreation passport fee is as follows:

7           (a) Except as **otherwise** provided in ~~subdivision (b) or (c)~~,  
8 **this subsection**, \$10.00.

9           (b) **For a motorcycle**, \$5.00.



1           (c) ~~(b)~~ For an individual who obtains a 2-year vehicle  
2 registration under section 226(14), ~~\$20.00~~ **2 times the amount in**  
3 **subdivision (a) or (b), as applicable.**

4           ~~(e) For a motorcycle, \$5.00.~~

5           (2) ~~In~~ **Subject to subsection (8), in** addition to the  
6 requirements of section 217, ~~an a written, electronic, or online~~  
7 application for a motor vehicle registration must contain at least  
8 the following information, ~~in substantially the following format~~  
9 ~~and language,~~ **by January 1, 2025,** except that the amount of the  
10 recreation passport fee specified must be ~~\$20.00 for a vehicle~~  
11 ~~registered for 2 years under section 226(14) and \$5.00 for a~~  
12 ~~motorcycle~~ **the amount calculated under subsection (1), as**  
13 **applicable:**

14           \$ [Amount] ~~Annual vehicle~~ **Vehicle** registration ~~or renewal,~~  
15 **and \$10.00 recreation passport, provides year-round**  
16 **vehicle entry into all Michigan state parks, boating**  
17 **access sites, other recreation areas and local park**  
18 **grant funding.**

19           ~~\$10.00 Annual authorization to use this vehicle for~~  
20 ~~unlimited entry into all Michigan state parks~~  
21 ~~and recreation areas and DNR-operated state~~  
22 ~~boating access sites. (Check one of the~~  
23 ~~boxes below.)~~

24           \$ [Amount]  I ~~elect to pay this \$10.00 fee.~~ **wish to donate**  
25 **an additional \$15.00 to support Michigan's parks and**  
26 **recreation and understand this will increase my**  
27 **payment.**

28           \$ [Amount]  I ~~elect not to pay this \$10.00 fee.~~ **decline the**  
29 **recreation passport.**



1                   ~~This vehicle will not be used to enter the~~  
 2                   ~~facilities described above.~~

3                   \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ~~Total amount due.~~

4                   (3) The secretary of state may revise the format and language  
 5 of an application for motor vehicle registration to reflect the  
 6 fact that, under sections 74116 and 78119 of the natural resources  
 7 and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.74116 and  
 8 324.78119, payment of the recreation passport fee authorizes entry  
 9 into all state parks and recreation areas and designated state-  
 10 operated public boating access sites until expiration of the motor  
 11 vehicle registration.

12                   (4) If the applicant applies by mail and, in addition to the  
 13 registration fee, the applicant pays an amount equal to the  
 14 recreation passport fee, the applicant ~~shall be considered to have~~  
 15 **has** elected to pay the recreation passport fee. ~~regardless of~~  
 16 ~~whether such an election is indicated on the application.~~

17                   **(5) If the applicant makes a donation under subsection (2),**  
 18 **the secretary of state shall collect and deposit the donation as**  
 19 **recreation passport fee revenue.**

20                   (6) ~~(5)~~ Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply to any of the  
 21 following:

22                   (a) An application submitted by a dealer under section 217 for  
 23 a vehicle sold, leased, or exchanged by the dealer.

24                   (b) The issuance or renewal of a motor vehicle registration  
 25 described in section 803e(1) and exempt under section 803e(6) from  
 26 the registration tax or the issuance or renewal of a motor vehicle  
 27 registration described in section 217d or 803f.

28                   (7) ~~(6)~~ The secretary of state shall, at least monthly,  
 29 transfer the revenue from recreation passport fees to the



1 department of natural resources for deposit as provided in section  
2 2045 of the natural resources and environmental protection act,  
3 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.2045.

4 (8) ~~(7) For~~ **By August 1 of** each ~~calendar~~ year, the state  
5 treasurer shall adjust the amounts set forth in subsection (1) by  
6 an amount determined by the state treasurer to reflect the  
7 cumulative percentage change in the Consumer Price Index from  
8 October 1, 2010 to the October 1 immediately preceding that  
9 calendar year, using the most recent data available and rounded to  
10 the nearest dollar.

11 (9) ~~(8)~~ The legislature shall annually review the amount of  
12 revenue raised by the recreation passport fee to ensure that the  
13 amount is appropriate for the purposes for which the recreation  
14 passport fee is assessed and in compliance with law.

15 (10) ~~(9)~~ If the secretary of state issues a registration tab  
16 or sticker for a registration plate or personalized registration  
17 plate under section 224 or 803b for a motor vehicle that had a  
18 recreation passport fee paid under this section, the tab or sticker  
19 must be marked in a distinctive manner determined by the secretary  
20 of state after consultation with the director of the department of  
21 natural resources and the department of state police. Before  
22 discontinuing the issuance of a registration tab or sticker, the  
23 secretary of state ~~shall~~ **must** consult with the director of the  
24 department of natural resources and establish an alternative method  
25 or procedure the department of natural resources can use to  
26 determine whether a recreation passport fee has been paid for a  
27 motor vehicle.

28 (11) ~~(10)~~ Whether ~~or not~~ an individual paid or indicated that  
29 ~~he or she~~ **the individual** elected to pay or not to pay a recreation



1 passport fee under this section is personal information for  
2 purposes of section 40b.

3 (12) ~~(11)~~—As used in this section:

4 (a) "Consumer Price Index" means the most comprehensive index  
5 of consumer prices available for this state from the Bureau of  
6 Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor.

7 (b) "Motor vehicle" does not include a commercial motor  
8 vehicle.

9 ~~(c) "Recreation passport fee" means the state park and state-~~  
10 ~~operated public boating access site recreation passport fee as~~  
11 ~~provided for in subsection (1).~~

