

HOUSE REPUBLICAN STAFF ANALYSIS

Bill:	House File 583	House Committee:	PASSED 21-0 (3/1/2023)
Committee:	Transportation	House Floor:	PASSED 96-0 (3/1/2023)
Floor Manager:	Rep. Josh Meggers	Senate Floor:	PASSED 50-0 (4/19/2023)
Date:	May 9, 2023	House Final:	PASSED 94-0 (5/1/2023)
Staff:	Brad Trow (1-3471)	Governor:	

Certifying Odometer Readings of Vehicles At Time of Sale or Transfer

- Federal law requires an owner of a vehicle who is selling or transferring the vehicle to certify the odometer reading at the time of transfer. But what happens when the transfer is done by operation of law, like when a person has passed away and they don't have a will? Current Iowa law requires a cumbersome procedure for transfer in these circumstances that can result in a loss in value of the vehicle.
- House File 583 states that the person who receives possession of the vehicle as an operation of law becomes the deceased owner's agent for the purposes of completing the odometer reading statement. This will allow for a simpler process for selling or transferring vehicles.

Section by Section Analysis

Section 1 – Iowa Code (321.47 (2)):

The section amends Iowa Code provisions that deal with transfer of motor vehicles by operation of law. Federal law requires a person who owns a motor vehicle and is transferring that vehicle to another owner to certify the odometer reading and that the odometer has not been adjusted. How this certification happens when the owner is deceased and does not have a will is somewhat complicated under current Iowa law. A party who will receive possession of the vehicle in these situations has to sign an affidavit attesting to a number or provisions regarding control of the vehicle. And under the current procedure, it is possible that transfer of the title cannot happen or is done in such a manner that the value of the vehicle is reduced.

The new language in section 1 of the bill cleans up this process with regards to meeting the federal law requirement about odometer readings. The person signing the affidavit is declared to the agent of the previous owner for the purposes of complying with the laws regarding odometer readings during transfers of vehicles. The new section also allows the person signing the affidavit to submit the odometer reading statement with the affidavit.