

Legislative Analysis



ALLOW HIRED TRANSPORTATION TO POLLING PLACES

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4568 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Karen Whitsett
Committee: Elections
Complete to 5-22-23

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4568 would eliminate the Michigan Election Law's prohibition on hiring transportation to bring voters to a polling place.

Currently, it is illegal under the Michigan Election Law to hire a motor vehicle to transport voters to an election, unless the voters are physically unable to walk. (There is no prohibition on drivers who volunteer their services.) Violations are a misdemeanor punishable by up to 90 days' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$500, or both.

MCL 168.931

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4568 would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on local units of government. The number of convictions that would result under provisions of the bill is not known. Violations would be misdemeanors, and new misdemeanor convictions could result in increased costs related to county jails and/or local misdemeanor probation supervision. Costs of local incarceration in county jails and local misdemeanor probation supervision, and how those costs are financed, vary by jurisdiction. The fiscal impact on local court systems would depend on how provisions of the bill affected court caseloads and related administrative costs. It is difficult to project the actual fiscal impact to courts due to variables such as law enforcement practices, prosecutorial practices, judicial discretion, case types, and complexity of cases. Any increase in penal fine revenue would increase funding for public and county law libraries, which are the constitutionally designated recipients of those revenues.

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