



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

House Office Building, 9 South  
Lansing, Michigan 48909  
Phone: 517/373-6466

**LIABILITY FOR RESCUE COSTS**

**House Bill 5989**

**Sponsor: Rep. William Callahan**

**Committee: Conservation and Outdoor  
Recreation**

**Complete to 7-30-02**

**A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 5989 AS INTRODUCED 5-2-02**

The bill would amend the Revised Judicature Act of 1961 (Public Act 236) to require, under certain circumstances, a person who was rescued from a body of water in the state to pay the costs of his or her rescue to the governmental unit that incurred those costs.

Under the bill, a person would be liable for rescue costs incurred by a governmental unit if the person failed to take note of safety warnings regarding the conditions of the ice or the weather on or near the body of water; or where he or she went onto the ice or into the water when a reasonable person would have refrained from doing so in light of the climate conditions, the conditions of the ice, or both. A lack of knowledge about the safety warnings would not be a defense to a cause of action to collect payment. Safety warnings would include warnings issued, posted, or otherwise made available to the public by a governmental unit.

Proposed MCL 600.2973 [Note: Public Act 209 of 2002, which pertains to the destruction of field crops used for testing or research, already added section 2973 to the Revised Judicature Act.]

House Bill 5989 (7-30-02)

Analyst: M. Wolf

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.