

# Legislative Analysis

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## FREE BIRTH CERTIFICATE TO HOMELESS

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### House Bill 6390

**Sponsor: Rep. Mary Waters**

**Committee: Health Policy**

**Complete to 11-27-06**

## A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 6390 AS INTRODUCED 8-30-06

The bill would amend the Public Health Code (MCL 333.2891) to require that, upon formal application, a homeless individual be furnished without charge a search and one certified copy of his or her birth record. "Homeless individual" would mean that term as defined under federal law (42 USC 11302).

(Under 42 USC 11302, the term "homeless" or "homeless individual or homeless person" includes: (1) an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and (2) an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is: a) supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill); b) an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or c) a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodations for human beings. The term excludes any individual imprisoned or otherwise detained under an act of the Congress or a state law.)

### FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 6390, as introduced, may have a modest fiscal impact on the Department of Community Health. The costs are dependent upon the number of homeless persons who seek to obtain a birth certificate from the Department under this provision, for which the current standard fee pursuant to statute is \$26. The cost of providing this service will have to be supported by existing revenue of the Department of Community Health or additional state funding if demand is significant. Currently, the costs of vital records program services exceed the fee revenue of the program. The number of homeless persons in Michigan is estimated by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority to be 50,692, including persons chronically and temporarily homeless.

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