

Legislative Analysis



ELECTION-RELATED FORGERY

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House Bill 5992 (proposed substitute H-2)
Sponsor: Rep. Steve Marino
Committee: Elections and Ethics
Complete to 5-16-18

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

SUMMARY:

House Bill 5992 would add a section to the Michigan Election Law stating that a person who makes, files, or otherwise publishes a false document with the intent to defraud for the purpose of securing voter registration, voting at an election, or qualifying a candidate for elective office is guilty of forgery.

Proposed MCL 168.933a

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 5992 would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on the state and on local units of government and would depend on the number of individuals convicted of forgery under provisions of the bill. According to section 937 of the Michigan Election Law (MCL 168.937), any person found guilty of forgery will be punished by a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or by imprisonment in the state prison for a term not to exceed 5 years, or both, which would be in the discretion of the court. In fiscal year 2017, the average cost of prison incarceration in a state facility was roughly \$37,000 per prisoner per year, a figure that includes various fixed administrative and operational costs. State costs for parole and felony probation supervision averaged about \$3,600 per supervised offender in the same year. The fiscal impact on local court systems would depend on how provisions of the bill affected caseloads and related administrative costs. Any increase in penal fine revenues would increase funding for local libraries, which are the constitutionally designated recipients of those revenues.

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