

# Fiscal Analysis

## "QUALITY OF LIFE" VIOLATIONS



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**Bill/Sponsor**            **HOUSE BILL 5216 (H-1)**, Rep. Steven H. Tobocman  
**HOUSE BILL 5217 with committee amendment**, Rep. Bill McConico  
**HOUSE BILL 5218 as introduced**, Rep. Kenneth R. Daniels  
**HOUSE BILL 5219 as introduced**, Rep. Jim Howell  
**HOUSE BILL 5220 as introduced**, Rep. Edward J. Gaffney  
**HOUSE BILL 5223 as introduced**, Rep. William P. Huizenga  
**HOUSE BILL 5224 as introduced**, Rep. Morris Hood III

**House Committee**        Judiciary

**Analysis**                    **Summary**  
The bills constitute a package of legislation that would enable a home rule city to designate certain ordinance violations as "quality of life" violations, which would be adjudicated by a municipal administrative hearings bureau (with appeal to the circuit court), and subject to civil fines of up to \$10,000. Ordinances whose violations could be designated as quality of life violations could include ordinances on zoning, building and property maintenance, solid waste and illegal dumping, disease and sanitation, noxious weeds, and vehicle abandonment.

**Fiscal Impact**  
The bills would have an indeterminate impact on local units of government and the judiciary. Depending on how cities opted to utilize the legislation, the bills could reduce district court caseload burdens and increase municipal administrative costs and civil fine revenues. The bills also could affect state judicial revenues. Presumably, quality of life violations otherwise would be adjudicated as municipal civil infractions, and each municipal civil infraction is subject to a \$10 state assessment that, together with other civil infraction and civil filing fee revenues, supports a variety of justice-related programs through the state justice system fund. Thus, depending on the extent to which municipalities opted to adjudicate violations as quality of life violations, the legislation could reduce revenues that otherwise would accrue to the state justice system fund.

**Analyst(s)**  
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**FLOOR ANALYSIS - 12/1/03**

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