

Legislative Analysis



INCREASE COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

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House Bill 5594

Sponsor: Rep. Jacob Hoogendyk

House Bill 5595

Sponsor: Rep. Edward Gaffney

House Bill 5596

Sponsor: Rep. Alexander C. Lipsey

Committee: Transportation

Complete to 9-7-04

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILLS 5594-5596 AS INTRODUCED 2-24-04

Each of the bills would amend a separate act so as to allow county road commissions to have not less than three members or more than five. Each amended section of law currently refers to a three-member commission.

House Bill 5594 would amend the County Road Law, Public Act 283 of 1909 (MCL 224.6). House Bill 5595 would amend Public Act 293 of 1966, dealing with charter counties (MCL 45.514). House Bill 5596 would amend Public Act 139 of 1973, which deals with optional unified county governments (MCL 45.562).

FISCAL IMPACT:

With the exception of Wayne County, every county in the state has a road commission established under the authority of PA 283 of 1909. [In Wayne County, a charter county, the functions of the road commission were assumed by the Wayne County Board of Commissioners by charter amendment in 1984.] Public Act 283 currently provides for three-member road commission boards. House Bill 5594 would allow, but not require, the expansion of road commission boards to up to five members.

House Bill 5594 could increase local costs to the extent that a county elected to increase the size of its county road commission by one or two board members, as authorized by the bills. The amount of additional cost would depend on the compensation paid to road commission board members, which varies among road commissions.

House Bill 5596 merely provides a cross reference to PA 283 of 1909 in PA 139 of 1973 and has no direct fiscal impact.

House Bill 5595 would amend language in PA 293 of 1966 which provides for the creation of road commissions in charter counties. However, Section 14(2) of PA 293 of 1966 currently indicates that the language regarding the creation of road commission in a

charter county does not apply to a county in which the charter is amended to provide for an alternative method of carrying out the powers and duties of the board of county road commissioners. Wayne County, the only charter county in the state, did amend its charter in 1984 to abolish the road commission and to provide for an alternative method of carrying out the powers and duties of the road commission. As a result, House Bill 5595 has no impact on any Michigan county as currently organized, only a potential impact on counties seeking organization as a charter county under PA 293 of 1966.

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Fiscal Analyst: William Hamilton

■ 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.