

DURATION OF EMERGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS

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House Bill 6507 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Jack O'Malley
Committee: Government Operations
Complete to 12-11-20

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

SUMMARY:

House Bill 6507 would amend the Public Health Code to limit the duration of certain emergency public health orders to 28 days unless the legislature approves an extension.

Under the code, if the director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) determines that control of an epidemic is necessary to protect the public health, he or she can issue an emergency order to limit the size of gatherings and establish procedures that must be followed during the epidemic.

The bill would provide that such an emergency order could not be valid for more than 28 days unless both houses of the legislature adopted a resolution to approve a request from the director of DHHS to extend the order for a specific number of days.

The bill states that its provisions are intended to be retroactive and to apply to emergency orders issued on or after November 15, 2020.

MCL 333.2253 and proposed MCL 333.2253a

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 6507 would have indeterminate fiscal implications for DHHS and for local public health departments. Health department costs related to pandemic events include monitoring, contact tracing, collaborating with other public and private entities for pandemic infrastructure and response, and many others. Many of these costs are supported by state and local funds, and some of these costs have been supported by federal appropriations in FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21.

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