

APR 17 1989

Mich. State Law Library



NEIGHBORHOOD SAFE HOUSES

Washington Square Building, Suite 1025
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Phone: 517/373-6466

House Bill 4097
Sponsor: Rep. Bill Martin
Committee: Judiciary

Complete to 3-6-89

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4097 AS INTRODUCED 2-7-89

The bill would create a new public act to establish standards and oversight for neighborhood "safe houses", that is, neighborhood homes where children can seek emergency help. A safe house would be designated by a standard sign and occupied by a responsible adult. No home occupied by anyone ever convicted of a crime involving sexual conduct, a controlled substance, or violence could be a safe house.

Local programs. A neighborhood safe house program could be sponsored by a local law enforcement agency, or a school district or local nonprofit organization in cooperation with a local law enforcement agency. The law enforcement agency would conduct a background check on each person applying to have his or her home designated a safe house, and on each adult residing in the home. The program sponsor would supply a numbered sign bearing the standard neighborhood safe house symbol to an applicant who passed the background check and agreed in writing to follow the terms of the program. Signs would be the property of the local law enforcement agency, and would have to be returned to the agency if the sponsor determined that a person's home no longer qualified as a safe house. A sponsor would keep a register of its safe houses and would furnish to the state police information necessary for the statewide register established by the bill.

State police duties. The Department of State Police would: develop program guidelines; adopt a standard safe house symbol and sign, and a model application form for safe house designation; publicize the program and make information available to potential sponsors; maintain a statewide register of neighborhood safe houses; and cooperate with local law enforcement agencies in their background checks on persons applying to have their homes designated as safe houses. The department would make safe house signs available at cost to local law enforcement agencies. The department could promulgate rules to implement the bill.

Penalties. It would be a misdemeanor for a person to display a safe house sign from his or her home unless all of the following were true: the home had been approved by a program sponsor; the person had never been convicted of a crime involving sexual conduct, a controlled substance, or violence; and, to that person's knowledge, no other adult had ever been convicted of one of those offenses. It also would be a misdemeanor to fail to return a safe house sign when one's home no longer qualified under the program.

House Bill 4097 (3-6-89)