



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

Public Act 389 of 1978, the domestic violence prevention and treatment act, provides the framework for state funding assistance to domestic violence programs across the state. To be eligible for state funds, an agency must come up with enough local support to meet a state-local match requirement of 40 percent state funds to 60 percent local contributions, which may take the form of in-kind contributions. State grants are limited to \$75,000 per program per year. Of the 42 agencies now funded under the act, all but two are receiving the maximum amount (those two are Domestic Harmony in Hillsdale, and the Baraga County Shelter Home in L'Anse). However, people familiar with the act and the programs it supports say that the match requirement, with its accompanying need to evaluate and document donated time and goods, drains too much time and effort away from providing services. A decrease in the local match requirement has been suggested.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The bill would amend the domestic violence prevention and treatment act with regard to the matching funds requirement that applies to programs seeking state grants. The minimum match required of local agencies would be decreased from 60 percent to 25 percent.

MCL 400.1506

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

According to the House Fiscal Agency (HFA), the bill would cost the state about \$10,000, as all but two of the 42 domestic violence agencies being funded are already receiving the maximum amount of \$75,000. The HFA notes also that the reduction in the local match requirement could result in less local public funding of domestic violence programs. (5-30-90) According to the Department of Social Services, the potential fiscal impact of the bill would be a total of \$9,565, which could be absorbed in the current budget. (5-30-90)

ARGUMENTS:

For:

To obtain state money under the domestic violence prevention and treatment act, domestic violence programs must at present meet a stringent match requirement of 60 percent local to 40 percent state funds. While the local match can include in-kind contributions such as volunteer labor and donations of food and furniture, documenting those contributions occupies time that could be better spent in providing services, raising funds, and recruiting volunteers. Some programs, especially those in rural areas, have difficulty meeting the match requirement, even

UP STATE MATCH FOR SPOUSE ABUSE PGMS.
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House Bill 5125 as introduced OCT 08 1990
First Analysis (6-18-90)

Sponsor: Rep. Michael E. Nye Mich. State Law Library
Committee: Appropriations

though they may have a substantial degree of community support. By lowering the required local match to 25 percent, the bill would relieve hard-pressed and underfunded domestic violence programs of burdensome paperwork.

POSITIONS:

The Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board supports the bill. (1-30-90)

The Department of Social Services supports the bill. (5-30-90)

The Office of Children & Youth Services supports the bill. (6-18-90)

The Michigan Women's Commission supports the bill. (11-29-90)

The Michigan Coalition Against Domestic Violence supports the bill. (1-31-90)

The following organizations providing domestic violence services wrote letters in support of the bill:

Domestic Assault Rape Elimination Services (DARES) of Port Huron (2-19-90)

Domestic Harmony of Hillsdale (12-1-89)

H.B. 5125 (6-18-90)