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DUTIES, PAY INCREASED BY SCHOOL BOARDS

House Bill 5369 (Substitute H-1)
First Analysis (2-21-90)

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Sponsor: Rep. Joe Young, Jr.
Committee: Education

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

The School Code permits board members of local and intermediate school districts to be compensated for no more than 52 meetings, subcommittee meetings, or authorized duties per year, and limits compensation to \$30 per diem for each meeting attended. Public Act 86 of 1985 provided for the lifting of the restriction on the number of meetings for which a board member on the Detroit school board (the state's only first class district) may be compensated upon a majority vote of the board. This restriction was lifted since Detroit school board members are required to attend at least 79 meetings per year, and often must attend more than this. The same situation apparently exists in some second, third, and fourth class districts, as well as in intermediate school districts, and some people feel other local school boards should be authorized to remove this limit by a majority vote.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The School Code currently prohibits a local school board (other than Detroit's) from receiving compensation for more than a total of 52 meetings, subcommittee meetings, and authorized duties per year. The bill would amend the act to permit this limitation to be removed by a majority vote of a board within a second, third, or fourth class district, or by the board of an intermediate school district.

MCL 380.116 et al.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

According to the House Fiscal Agency, the bill would not affect state expenditures but could have fiscal implications for local school districts. Any fiscal impact to local school districts would depend on the number of meetings and duties each individual school board voted to be compensated for. (2-20-90)

ARGUMENTS:

For:

Serving on a school board, especially in a large school district, is a very time-consuming job for which compensation is limited to a maximum of \$30 per authorized meeting or duty for no more than 52 meetings per year (except for Detroit school board members, who may vote to be compensated for more than 52 meetings annually). While the position of school board member has customarily been a volunteer community service role, it seems only fair to allow other districts besides Detroit which also have many more than 52 meetings per year to compensate their members for the actual number of meetings attended or duties performed annually. Having an arbitrary limit on the number of duties and meetings that can be compensated for tends to discourage people from serving on boards. A board's decision to increase the

number of meetings that could be compensated for, however, would be open to public scrutiny: if they disagreed with a board's decision, electors could express their opposition with a recall petition or at the next school board election.

POSITIONS:

The Michigan Association of School Boards supports the bill. (2-20-90)

The Michigan Association of School Administrators does not oppose the bill. (2-20-90)

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