



Manufacturer's Bank Building, 12th Floor
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Phone: 517/373-6466

House Bill 5671 (Substitute H-3)
First Analysis (9-26-90)

Sponsor: Rep. Joseph Palamara
Committee: Tourism, Fisheries, & Wildlife

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

During the high school graduation and homecoming seasons, many students find older adult friends or siblings to rent hotel and motel rooms on the students' behalf in order for the students to have drinking parties. These types of parties have resulted in damage to several hotels and motels in Michigan. In addition, the participation by the adult in the renting of the room sends a negative signal to the students that renting out a room for the purpose of drinking is acceptable behavior. Some people believe that the legislature ought to criminalize this practice.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The bill would amend the Michigan Penal Code to prohibit a person from renting or leasing a hotel room or a bed and breakfast room for him or herself or another individual and using drugs or alcoholic liquor, or committing a violation of the act which results in damage to the room or its furnishings. Violation of the bill would result in a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for up to 90 days, community service, or a fine of up to \$500, or any combination of the punishments. A court could order a person to pay restitution in cases involving damage to a room. Restitution could include the loss of revenue resulting from inability to rent or lease the room during the period of repair of the room. However, the court could dismiss a criminal action for violation of the bill if the defendant paid the restitution. Owners or operators of hotels and bed and breakfasts would post a copy of the bill in a conspicuous place adjacent to the site of registration for a room. The bill would specify that law enforcement agencies that received written or oral notification of a violation of the bill would respond to the notification.

MCL 750.411f

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

According to the House Fiscal Agency, the bill would have negligible fiscal implications for the state. (9-26-90)

ARGUMENTS:

For:

The abuse of alcohol and drugs in social situations is very prevalent in society. However, people are beginning to realize that tolerance of abuse of alcohol and drugs only helps make the situation more acceptable. Some longstanding traditions send to students a signal of acceptance of the abuse of alcohol and drugs and the destructive behavior with which it is often accompanied. The bill will help send the message to students and their older siblings and adult friends who rent out hotel and motel rooms that the abuse of drugs and alcohol is not acceptable and will not be tolerated any longer.

POSITIONS:

There are no positions on the bill.