

SFA

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Fiscal Agency

• Lansing, Michigan 48909

• (517) 373-5383

Senate Bill 388 (as passed by the Senate)
Sponsor: Senator James A. Barcia
Committee: Local Government and Veterans

Date Completed: 7-12-90

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RATIONALE

It has been pointed out that barrier free improvements, such as ramps, that enhance handicappers' access to buildings are not exempt from taxation under the General Property Tax Act. Some people believe that it is unfair to increase a person's assessment because he or she has installed a ramp to enable a wheelchair user or other physically impaired individual to go into and out of his or her home.

wheelchair user or other handicapper to get into, out of, or around the home. This type of improvement is a necessity that allows the physically limited person to move with less difficulty and to lead a more independent life. A ramp is not a cosmetic improvement made to enhance the appearance of the home, nor is it an effort to increase the value of property. It goes with saying that anyone who must build a ramp would much rather not have the need for it.

CONTENT

The bill would amend the General Property Tax Act to provide that the value of barrier free improvements made to residential property would be exempt from taxation under the Act. "Barrier free improvements" would mean improvements to property that eliminate the type of barriers and hindrances that deter a physically limited person from having access to, and free mobility in and around, a building, structure, or improved area.

Legislative Analyst: S. Margules
Fiscal Analyst: N. Khouri

Proposed MCL 211.7f

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would lead to an indeterminate reduction in local revenue. Data are not available on the aggregate dollar value of barrier free improvements.

ARGUMENTS**Supporting Argument**

It is unfair to penalize a property owner for adding a ramp or other barrier free improvement to his or her home to enable a

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

S.B. 388 (7-12-90)