

SFA

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Fiscal Agency

Lansing, Michigan 48909

(517) 373-5383

MICHIGAN STATE LAW LIBRARY

Senate Bill 1075 (as enrolled)

PUBLIC ACT 328 of 1990

Sponsor: Senator James A. Barcia

Senate Committee: State Affairs, Tourism, and Transportation

House Committee: State Affairs

Date Completed: 1-28-91

RATIONALE

According to many sources, Frank Murphy was one of Michigan's most prominent and distinguished public officials. During the course of his career, he served as first assistant U.S. attorney of the Eastern Michigan district, law instructor at the University of Detroit, Recorder's Court judge, Mayor of Detroit, Governor-general and high commissioner of the Philippines, Governor of Michigan, Attorney General of the United States, and justice of the United States Supreme Court. For at least the past 20 years, the home in which Mr. Murphy was born has served as a museum containing some of the memorabilia of his career and has been open to the public free of charge during the summer months. According to an article in the Detroit Free Press (11-1-89), "Much of what has been on display is irreplaceable and priceless, and curators have warned that unless this material is accorded professional care and attention, its longevity is uncertain." Reportedly, to help ensure that these documents and other materials are properly preserved for posterity, the Frank Murphy Memorial Museum Foundation has suggested that the State purchase the Murphy estate from Brigid Murphy, the sister-in-law of Frank Murphy and trustee for the estate.

CONTENT

The bill would authorize the State Administrative Board to purchase from Brigid Murphy, trustee, for \$250,000, certain real and personal property for the operation of the Frank Murphy Museum, in cooperation with the Frank Murphy Museum Foundation. Further, the bill would appropriate \$125,000 from the General

Fund if an additional amount of \$125,000 could be raised from other sources within three years of the bill's effective date.

(The Murphy estate includes the museum, the Victorian home in which Mr. Murphy was reared, the home of Brigid Murphy, a horse barn, and additional property.)

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill, with the Senate committee amendment, would provide \$125,000 in State GF/GP to acquire, recondition, and relocate the birthplace of Frank Murphy, contingent upon a match of \$125,000 to be raised through other sources within three years of the effective date of the bill. No additional State costs for either acquisition or operation are anticipated. The net fiscal impact for FY 1990-91 would be \$125,000 if the match were secured.

ARGUMENTSSupporting Argument

The bill would provide needed funds to help ensure the preservation of the estate and personal and professional memorabilia of one of Michigan's most eminent public officials.

Legislative Analyst: L. Burghardt

Fiscal Analyst: R. Abent

A8990/S1075EA

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. 1075 (1-28-91)