



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

Washington Square Building, Suite 1025
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Phone: 517/373-6466

POLICE MONITORS IN MOTOR VEHICLES

House Bill 5148 with committee amendment
First Analysis (3-10-88)

RECEIVED

APR 14 1988

Sponsor: Rep. Thomas E. Scott
Committee: Judiciary

Mich. State Law Library

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) allows licensed amateur radio operators to transmit and receive signals on federally authorized frequency allocations which are shared with police radio services. Some time ago, the FCC changed their licensing requirements to include technician class operators in the amateur classification. Since these operators are allowed to equip their vehicles with radio receivers without first securing a permit from the state police, many in the amateur radio community in this state are urging that Michigan law be amended to conform to the FCC licensing requirements.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

Under the Michigan Penal Code, a person must obtain a permit from the state police to have a police radio monitor in a vehicle. Peace officers and certain licensed amateur radio operators are exempted from the permit requirement. The bill would in addition exempt a technician class operator licensed by the Federal Communications Commission.

MCL 750.508

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

According to the House Fiscal Agency, the bill has no fiscal implications. (3-8-88)

ARGUMENTS:

For:

It makes sense to change Michigan law governing amateur radio operators. Otherwise, technician class radio operators could be subject to prosecution in their home state.

POSITIONS:

The Department of State Police supports the bill. (3-9-88)

H.B. 5148 (3-10-88)