



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD; COMPENSATION

House Bill 5192 as introduced
First Analysis (3-16-88)

RECEIVED

Sponsor: Rep. Frank Fitzgerald
Committee: Urban Affairs

APR 14 1988

Mich. State Law Library

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

Public Act 164 of 1955 allows the governing or legislative bodies of participating municipalities to establish district libraries, and to appoint or elect members to the library board of trustees. Although members of these boards may receive reimbursement for expenses, the act specifies that they must serve without pay. Because they have had difficulty in attracting people to serve on these boards, some municipalities have proposed that they be allowed to compensate members.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The bill would amend Public Act 164 of 1955 to allow the governing or legislative body of each participating municipality to compensate members of library boards for each library board meeting attended, and to pay their expenses.

MCL 397.273

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

According to the House Fiscal Agency, the bill would have no fiscal impact on the state, but could have minor fiscal implications for local governments, depending on how much a municipality decided to compensate library board members. (3-14-88)

ARGUMENTS:

For:

The bill would allow local governments to compensate their members on library boards, and thus make serving on the boards an attractive proposition.

Against:

Serving on these boards has long been regarded as voluntary public service. Board members should, of course, receive compensation for actual and necessary expenses, but it should not be necessary to provide an incentive for the opportunity to serve one's community.

Response: School district board members, members of township and county zoning boards, and township, municipal, and county planning commissions receive compensation for their attendance at board meetings (traditionally, school district board members served without compensation; however, the school code was recodified in 1976 and now provides for compensation of school district board members). It is only fair that library board members receive the same compensation.

SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS:

The Michigan Townships Association has pointed out that the current law provides for paying library board members' expenses from library board funds. The bill would strike

this language and specify that expenses, as well as compensation, would be paid by municipalities. The association suggests amending the bill to specify that board members would be compensated from library board funds. (3-15-88)

POSITIONS:

The Michigan Townships Association supports the concept of the bill, but suggests that it should be amended to make clear that compensation be paid by the governing body of the library (and from its funds), rather than by the governing body of the municipality. (3-15-88)

The Michigan Municipal League takes no position on the bill. (3-11-88)

The Michigan State Chamber of Commerce takes no position on the bill. (3-15-88)

H.B. 5192 (3-16-88)