



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD; COMPENSATION

House Bill 5192 as enrolled
Second Analysis (6-30-88)

RECEIVED

Sponsor: Rep. Frank Fitzgerald
Committee: Urban Affairs

AUG 04 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 delete the current provision requiring board members to serve without compensation, and to permit the governing library board of each participating municipality to compensate members of library boards for each library board meeting attended, in addition to paying expenses. Compensation for district library board members would not exceed \$30 for each meeting attended, and board members would not be compensated for more than 52 meetings per year.

MCL 397.273

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

According to the House Fiscal Agency, the bill would have no fiscal impact on the state. (3-14-88)

ARGUMENTS:

For:

The bill would allow library boards to compensate their members, 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.

H.B. 5192 (6-30-88)