

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACT REVISIONS



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FISCAL ANALYSIS

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HOUSE BILL 5496 AS INTRODUCED

Sponsor: Rep. Gary Newell

Committee: Commerce

COMMITTEE ANALYSIS - 2/11/02

Analyst(s): Kyle I. Jen

SUMMARY

House Bill 5496 would amend the Emergency Management Act to make a number of changes. The bill would have no apparent substantial fiscal impact, although there may be some administrative costs associated with new responsibilities placed on the state, local governments, and public colleges and universities. To the extent that the newly specified penalties were applied, local correctional costs would increase and fine revenue earmarked for local libraries would increase.

MAJOR CHANGES

Changes contained in the bill include the following:

- 1) Extend the period of time an executive order declaring a state of disaster or emergency can remain in effect without the approval of the Legislature from 14 to 28 days.
- 2) Authorize the Emergency Management Division to propose and administer statewide mutual aid compacts and agreements.
- 3) Include the judicial branch of the state as a department of state government for purposes of emergency management coordination.
- 4) Require that a public college or university with a combined average population of faculty, students, and staff of 25,000 or more appoint an emergency management coordinator (public colleges or universities with a population of 10,000 or more would be allowed, but not required, to appoint a coordinator).
- 5) Specify that emergency operation plans and programs developed by counties and municipalities include local courts.
- 6) Revise the provisions of the act granting immunity to certain individuals engaging in disaster relief activities.
- 7) Provide for the governor to declare a heightened state of alert if good cause exists to believe that acts of terrorism may be committed in Michigan.
- 8) Provide for imprisonment for not more than 90 days or a fine of not more than \$100 if a person is found guilty of willfully disobeying or interfering with the implementation a rule, order, or directive of the governor issued under such a state of alert.