

Fiscal Analysis

Revise criteria for cities at which district court
of first class must sit



Bill/Sponsor **HOUSE BILL 4078 AS INTRODUCED**, Rep. Scott Hummel

House Committee Judiciary

Analysis

Summary

Under the current provisions of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, a district court of the first class is required to sit at each county seat and at each city having a population of 3,250 or more, unless the city is contiguous to the county seat or to a city having a greater population. House Bill 4078 would amend the act to provide that the court would not have to sit at a city that is 10 miles or less from the county seat (essentially expanding the existing exemption for cities contiguous to the county seat).

Note: A district court of the first class is a court with jurisdiction over a district encompassing one or more entire counties. Of Michigan's 83 counties, 76 fall under the jurisdiction of district courts of the first class (the remaining seven counties are Genesee, Ingham, Kent, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne).

Fiscal Impact

The bill could potentially reduce costs to counties (which are the funding units for district courts of the first class) associated with maintaining space for court hearings in multiple cities. A preliminary analysis has identified 16 cities at which district courts of the first class are currently required to sit by statute that would be exempted under this bill. These 16 cities are located in 13 individual districts.

Since it is impossible to predict how many of the affected district courts would choose to stop holding hearings in the affected cities, the total amount of any savings is indeterminate. Additionally, it has been reported that some district courts are not currently sitting in each city covered by the requirements of the Revised Judicature Act. In such cases, no potential for cost savings under the bill exists.

Analyst(s)

Kyle I. Jen

COMMITTEE ANALYSIS - 3/24/03

Mitchell Bean, Director – House Fiscal Agency
124 N. Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: (517)373-8080, Fax: (517)373-5874
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>