

Fiscal Analysis

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



Bill/Sponsor **HOUSE BILL 4078 (H-2)**, 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 (1) the population threshold be increased to 6,500 and (2) the population-related requirement only apply to district courts of the first class consisting of one county and having a population of 130,000 or more.

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). Of those 76 counties, ten had populations of 130,000 or more in 2000: Berrien, Calhoun, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Livingston, Monroe, Muskegon, Ottawa, Saginaw, and St. Clair (none of these counties fall under the jurisdiction of multi-county district courts).

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. It appears that 30 cities at which district courts of the first class are currently required to sit by statute would be exempted under this bill. It has been reported, however, that district courts are currently sitting at only six of those thirty cities, despite the statutory requirement. Any costs savings would be limited to those six cities. Since it is impossible to predict whether district courts would choose to stop holding hearings in any of the six cities, the total amount of any savings is indeterminate.

Analyst(s)

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FLOOR ANALYSIS - 4/2/03

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