

SFA

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Fiscal Agency

• Lansing, Michigan 48909

• (517) 373-5383

RECEIVED

NOV 16 1988

Mich. State Law Library

Senate Bill 933 (as reported without amendment)**Sponsor: Senator Harmon Cropsey****Committee: Local Government and Veterans****Date Completed: 9-26-88*****RATIONALE***

Under Public Act 3 of 1895, which provides for the incorporation of villages, a village council made up of the president and trustees is required to prescribe the rules of its proceedings and to keep a record of those proceedings. The Act also requires that within 15 days after a council meeting, the proceedings of the meeting and any votes that were taken be published in a newspaper circulated in the village, if there is such a newspaper. While some village councils meet once a month, many villages hold council meetings twice a month. Thus, the full record of those meetings must be published, at a cost, in a newspaper twice a month. While village officials agree that their residents should be informed of actions taken at the meetings, they contend that publication of the entire proceedings has become costly. Thus, some village officials believe that they should be allowed to publish a synopsis of the council's proceedings. A synopsis, they contend, would provide an overview of the proceedings, be less expensive to publish, and still satisfy the Act's requirements.

proceedings. Furthermore, the bill would not preclude residents from obtaining a copy of the complete proceedings from their village offices.

Legislative Analyst: L. Arasim

Fiscal Analyst: G. Olson

This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

S.B. 933 (9-26-88)

CONTENT

The bill would amend Public Act 3 of 1895 to provide that the publication of a synopsis of a village council's proceedings would be in "sufficient" compliance with the Act's requirement that within 15 days after a council meeting the proceedings be published in a newspaper circulated in the village. The bill would require that the synopsis be prepared by the village clerk and approved by the president, and show the substance of each separate proceeding of the council.

MCL 65.5

FISCAL IMPACT

Senate Bill 933 would have no fiscal impact on State government. The passage of the bill could result in a minor cost savings for villages. The cost savings could result from having to publish a synopsis rather than the full proceeding of a village council meeting in a local newspaper.

ARGUMENTS***Supporting Argument***

The bill would result in a financial savings for villages in that they would not have to publish the entire record of the council meeting. This would be true especially for villages where a major newspaper, with expensive advertising rates, is circulated in the village. Publication of a synopsis, which reportedly is allowed for cities and townships, would give residents an overview of the