



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

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**TRASH COLLECTION SURCHARGE**

**House Bill 4178 as enrolled**  
**Second Analysis (6-29-89)**

**Sponsor: Rep. Mary C. Brown**  
**House Committee: Conservation, Recreation, &**  
**Environment.**  
**Senate Committee: Natural Resources and**  
**Environmental Affairs**

***THE APPARENT PROBLEM:***

With the passage of the \$660 million environmental protection bond authorization act last year, there has been a statewide push towards the implementation of recycling and waste reduction programs. Counties and townships have been encouraged to monitor and reduce waste within their jurisdictions. However, some counties and townships find it difficult to implement waste reduction and recycling programs because of those programs are often expensive to initiate. Legislation has been proposed to help counties and local units afford the cost of developing and maintaining waste reduction and recycling services by charging small user fees.

***THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:***

The bill would amend the Urban Cooperation Act to allow counties, by resolution of a county board of commissioners, to impose a surcharge of up to \$2 per month or \$25 per year on each household in the county for waste reduction programs and for the collection of consumer source separated materials for recycling or composting. In a county with a population of at least 690,000 that did not operate under either Public Act 139 of 1973 or Public Act 293 of 1966, the agency responsible for preparing the Solid Waste Management Plan for the county, rather than the board of commissioners, could pass the resolution. A county would have to defer the imposition of the surcharge in a local unit of government until the county entered into an interlocal agreement, with the local unit of government, that related to the collection and disposition of the surcharge.

MCL 124.508a

***FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:***

According to the Senate Fiscal Agency, the bill would have no fiscal implications for the state. (5-25-89)

***ARGUMENTS:***

***For:***

Under the Solid Waste Management Act, counties are given the responsibility for planning the regulation of solid waste and reducing the amount of garbage sent to incinerators and landfills through the development of county solid waste management plans. However, it is difficult to regulate waste when the components of the waste are unknown. Therefore, many counties and local units try to establish source separation programs in order to better monitor waste. However, recycling and waste reduction programs are often too expensive for counties and local units to initiate. The bill will address this problem by allowing counties to recoup some of the costs of a recycling or waste reduction program by establishing a surcharge to be used for payment for the program.