



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

The Department of Social Services (DSS) has searched for several years for a site on which a 32-bed youth detention and treatment facility would be built to serve the state's northernmost geographic region. In addition to the appropriate geographic and physical requisites, the site would have to be compatible with local land use plans. Delta County has offered the state just such a site, located in the City of Escanaba. According to the department, the site meets the necessary requirements for public utilities, transportation, zoning and buffering, and emergency services. In addition, the land is currently publicly held, so the city would not experience a change in property tax revenues. Construction of the facility is planned to begin in the spring of 1990, and legislation is needed to authorize the acquisition.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The bill would authorize the state administrative board to acquire for not more than \$1 approximately 24 acres of land in the city of Escanaba, Delta County, to construct a juvenile detention center for the Department of Social Services. All documents regarding the acquisition would require the attorney general's approval.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

The bill would cost the state \$1 for conveyance of title to the property. According to the Department of Social Services, acquisition of the property would provide a savings to the state of the fair market price of the property, which is approximately \$90,000. (8-4-89)

ARGUMENTS:

For:

The proposed property transfer represents good mutual effort on behalf of the state government and local communities to work together. Since DSS estimates that construction of the facility will involve capital costs of \$3.6 million and annual operating costs of \$1.76 million, the detention center will provide jobs in the Escanaba area, and the state will acquire the land at almost no cost.

Against:

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) plans a series of interconnecting snowmobile trails across the Upper Peninsula, and had a contract with Delta County for a right of way for a portion of the trails that crosses the northern border of the property on the proposed youth detention site. DSS plans to renew this contract with DNR. Having a public snowmobile trail cross the proposed site would appear to invite harassment problems.

Response: The DSS contract with DNR for a right of way

PURCHASE PROPERTY IN ESCANABA FOR DSS

House Bill 4814 as passed by the House
Second Analysis (8-8-89)

Sponsor: Rep. Bart Stupak
Committee: State Affairs

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on the proposed site would be subject to annual review by DSS so that an assessment could be made to assure that the trail did not present problems. In such an isolated area as exists in this region, it is not anticipated that the youth center would attract attention from snowmobilers.

POSITIONS:

The Department of Social Services supports the bill. (8-4-89)

The City of Escanaba supports the bill. (8-4-89)

Delta County supports the bill. (8-7-89)

H.B. 4814 (8-8-89)