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BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Fiscal Agency

Lansing, Michigan 48909

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Senate Bill 726 (as passed by the Senate)
Sponsor: Senator Harmon Cropsey
Committee: Local Government and Veterans

Date Completed: 8-16-90

RATIONALE

Public Act 3 of 1895, which governs general law villages, requires that a village publish the proceedings of its council meetings in a newspaper circulated in the village, if any. Other local units of government, however, apparently are not required to publish their entire minutes: townships with a State equalized value of \$25 million or more must publish their proceedings but may publish a synopsis (MCL 41.72a), and fourth class cities must publish a "record" of proceedings and votes (MCL 88.8), while publication requirements for a home rule city or home rule village would be in its individual charter. As a cost-saving measure, it has been suggested that general law villages also be allowed to publish a synopsis of their proceedings.

CONTENT

The bill would amend Public Act 3 of 1895 to provide that publishing a synopsis of a council meeting would be sufficient compliance with the Act's requirement that a general law village, within 15 days after a council meeting, publish the proceedings in a newspaper circulated in the village, if there is such a newspaper. The synopsis would have to be prepared by the village clerk and approved by the president, showing the substance of each separate proceeding of the council. The bill also would delete the requirement that the vote of the members be published.

MCL 65.5

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would result in an indeterminate cost savings to villages resulting from reductions in purchase in newspapers for publishing council meeting minutes.

ARGUMENTS**Supporting Argument**

The bill would enable general law villages to save costs by publishing only a synopsis of their meeting minutes rather than publishing the entire proceedings. At the same time, the bill would put these villages on an equal footing with other local units of government in this respect.

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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. 726 (8-16-90)