

SFA

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Fiscal Agency

Lansing, Michigan 48909

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House Bill 4964 (as reported without amendment)

Sponsor: Representative Gary L. Randall

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Committee: State Affairs, Tourism, and Transportation

Date Completed: 12-4-89

RATIONALE

Department of State Police statistics show that in each of the past two years, Michigan had over 7,000 hit-and-run accidents in which 15 persons died and over 50 were seriously injured. Some people believe that the State could help lower the hit-and-run accident rate by imposing stiffer penalties on those found guilty of this crime. Currently, the Michigan Vehicle Code provides a penalty of up to two years' imprisonment and/or a maximum fine of \$2,000 for a driver who knows or has reason to believe that he or she has been involved in an accident resulting in serious injury or death, and fails to stop at the scene and stay there until he or she has identified himself or herself, the vehicle, and the owner, and assisted the injured person in securing medical help and transportation.

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to increase the penalty for leaving the scene of an accident from up to two years' imprisonment and/or a maximum fine of \$2,000, to imprisonment for up to five years and/or a maximum fine of \$5,000.

MCL 257.617

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on the State and local units of government. The potential increase in

revenues due to increased fines, and the potential increase in costs of incarceration, cannot be estimated.

ARGUMENTS**Supporting Argument**

The bill would help lower the number of hit-and-run crimes that occur each year by establishing stiffer penalties for hit-and-run drivers. Increasing the penalties would send a strong message to drivers involved in these accidents who fail to stay, identify themselves, and give any aid required by an accident victim.

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