



Olds Plaza Building, 10th Floor
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Phone: 517/373-6466

STATE MEETING LOCATIONS

House Bill 4179 as passed by the House
Second Analysis (8-9-94)

Sponsor: Rep. Joseph Young, Jr.
Committee: State Affairs

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

The Management and Budget Act contains a requirement that a meeting of a state agency be held in a governmental or university facility, unless the agency's chief executive officer authorizes another location in writing. However, for larger groups, it can sometimes be difficult to find conveniently located and adequate facilities without making use of privately-owned conference centers or meeting halls. Statutory restrictions received fresh attention in 1991 when the state budget director issued a memorandum forbidding departmental meetings at private facilities "unless absolutely necessary," and noting the statutory requirement for prior written authorization. It has been proposed that the Management and Budget Act be amended to delete the requirement for a director's signature before holding a meeting in a privately-owned facility.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The bill would amend the Management and Budget Act to allow a meeting of a state agency to be held in any facility, and to delete a requirement for prior approval from an agency's chief executive officer before a meeting can be held someplace other than in a governmental or university facility.

The bill is tie-barred to House Bill 4426, which would regulate the use of the MacMullan conference center.

MCL 18.1217

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

The House Fiscal Agency says that the bill would have no fiscal implications. (3-9-93)

ARGUMENTS:

For:

By lifting statutory restrictions on holding a state meeting in a private facility, the bill would eliminate an unnecessary impediment to good planning. It can sometimes be difficult, if not impossible, to find adequate and conveniently located publicly-owned facilities, especially when planning a meeting involving a large group of several hundred or more. The bill would encourage flexibility and economy in meeting planning without the imposition of a rigid administrative requirement.

Response:

It appears that the bill would be largely hortatory. Many, if not all, departments require as a matter of policy that the director's approval be obtained for expenditures involving group meetings, and these policies doubtless could and would continue whether or not statute required director approval.

POSITIONS:

The Michigan Hotel, Motel and Resort Association (formerly the Michigan Travel and Tourism Association) supports the bill. (8-9-94)