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FIA PILOT PROGRAM

**House Bill 4399 (Substitute H-4)
 Second Analysis (9-19-96)**

**Sponsor: Rep. Jack Horton
 Committee: Human Services**

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

The director of the Huron County Family Independence Agency (FIA) is retiring in the near future. Under provisions of the Social Welfare Act that allow the FIA -- for purposes of administrative efficiency -- to organize two counties into a single administrative unit, it was decided that Huron County would be paired with Sanilac County when the Huron County FIA director retired. This proposal was deemed unacceptable by Huron County. Reportedly, Huron County has closer ties to Tuscola County, since they are part of the same legislative district. Therefore, since Tuscola County has already been paired as a single administrative unit with Lapeer County, legislation has been proposed that would solve Huron County's problem by establishing a pilot project that would combine Huron, Tuscola, and Lapeer counties into a single administrative unit.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

Under the Social Welfare Act (MCL 400.48), the director of the Family Independence Agency (FIA) may organize two counties into a single administrative unit for purposes of administrative efficiency. The act further specifies that the director of the single administrative unit must be appointed by the FIA from among persons certified as eligible and recommended by the FIA and by all affected county boards. If the affected county boards are unable to reach agreement on recommended candidates within three months after being notified of a vacancy, the director of the single administrative unit must be appointed by the FIA from among persons certified as eligible and recommended by the FIA and by one or more of the affected county boards. House Bill 4399 would amend the act to add that the director of the FIA could also establish a pilot project combining Lapeer, Huron, and Tuscola counties into a single administrative unit. Under the bill, the director of the single administrative unit would have to be appointed in accordance with the provisions of the act.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

According to the Family Independence Agency, the bill would have a minimal impact on state funds: the state

would save an amount equal to the salary of one county director position (two counties have already been combined into one single administrative unit). (9-19-96)

ARGUMENTS:

For:

The bill would provide a solution to a dilemma faced by Huron County, whose director is schedule to retire shortly. Huron County would be combined as a single administrative unit with Tuscola County -- the county with which it shares a legislative district -- and Lapeer County -- the county that has already been combined with Tuscola.

POSITIONS:

The director of the Family Independence Agency (FIA) testified before the House Human Services Committee in support of the bill. (9-19-96)

Analyst: R. Young

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

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