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ASSISTED SUICIDE: ALLOW LOCAL UNITS TO RECOVER COSTS

House Bill 5295

Sponsor: Rep. Deborah Whyman

Committee: Judiciary

Complete to 11-5-97

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 5295 AS INTRODUCED 10-21-97

The bill would add two new sections to the Revised Judicature Act to allow state or local units of government that incurred costs for investigating and properly disposing of the bodies of people who committed or attempted to commit suicide to initiate a civil cause of action against the person or his or her estate to recover those costs. The bill also would make anyone who committed suicide (or tried to commit suicide) or who assisted another to do so responsible for paying "the actual and reasonable costs incurred by the county medical examiner and each police agency for investigating that suicide." Finally, the bill would both prohibit people from committing (or trying to commit) suicide -- or from assisting another to commit (or to attempt to commit) suicide -- on another person's property without the property owner's written permission, and would make violators responsible for three times the damages (including costs of material and labor and loss of business revenue) incurred by the property owner as a result of the suicide (or suicide attempt) or \$10,000, whichever was greater, plus court costs and actual and reasonable attorney fees.

MCL 600.2964 and 600.2965

Analyst: S. Ekstrom

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