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Senate Fiscal Agency  
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**SFA****BILL ANALYSIS**

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Senate Bill 558 (as reported without amendment)  
Sponsor: Senator Bev Hammerstrom  
Committee: Judiciary

### **CONTENT**

The bill would amend the Revised Judicature Act to allow arraignments and sentencing by magistrates on certain drunk driving offenses.

The Act provides that a district court magistrate has jurisdiction to arraign and sentence, upon a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, for violations of certain acts or parts of acts or a corresponding local ordinance, when authorized to do so by the chief judge of the district court and if the maximum permissible punishment does not exceed 90 days in jail and/or a fine.

A magistrate may arraign and sentence on violations of the Michigan Vehicle Code, except for the Code's drunk driving provisions, although a magistrate may arraign defendants and set bond with regard to drunk driving violations. The bill would delete and reenact that provision, except that a magistrate would have the authority to arraign and sentence if the maximum permissible punishment did not exceed 93 days in jail and/or a fine.

The bill would take effect on October 1, 1999. It is tie-barred to Senate Bills 556, 557, 559, and 560, and to House Bills 4580 through 4584.

MCL 600.8511

Legislative Analyst: P. Affholter

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The bill would allow magistrates to continue to arraign and sentence certain cases, thereby resulting in administrative savings to local courts.

Date Completed: 5-11-99

Fiscal Analyst: B. Bowerman