

BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR FLIGHT SCHOOL APPLICANTS



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FISCAL ANALYSIS

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SENATE BILL 934 AS PASSED THE SENATE

Sponsor: Sen. Joel D. Gougeon

House Committee: Transportation

COMMITTEE ANALYSIS - 2/20/02

Analyst(s): Kyle I. Jen

SUMMARY

Senate Bill 934 would amend the Aeronautics Code to require that both state-level and federal-level criminal background checks be conducted for flight school applicants in the state. The Michigan Bureau of Aeronautics estimates that 2,600 individuals apply to flight schools in the state annually. The bill would allow the Department of State Police to charge a fee for conducting the required background checks; the standard fee is \$39 (\$15 for the state-level check and \$24 for the federal-level check). Annual fee revenue and associated expenditures by the department would therefore increase by an estimated \$101,400. (Note: Executive Order 2001-9 raised the state-level portion of the fee from \$15 to \$30, effective for FY 2001-02 only. If this higher fee level were assumed, the revenue/expenditure estimate increases to \$140,400).

The bill also provides for a penalty of up to 90 days imprisonment and/or a fine of up to \$500 if a flight school improperly disclosed background check information. While this provision could potentially increase local correctional costs and/or fine revenue earmarked for local libraries, it is unlikely to have a significant fiscal impact.