

MICHIGAN ROADKILL CLEANUP FUND



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FISCAL ANALYSIS

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HOUSE BILL 4510 AS INTRODUCED

Sponsor: Rep. Larry L. DeVuyst
House Committee: Transportation

COMMITTEE ANALYSIS - 11/12/02

Analyst(s): William Hamilton

SUMMARY

This bill would amend PA 154 of 1994, the Natural resources and environmental protection act, to establish a "Michigan roadkill cleanup fund" within the state treasury. The bill directs the Michigan Department of Transportation to expend money from the fund, upon appropriation, only for the removal of animal carcasses and offal from state highways. The bill also authorizes the department to make grants to local units of government to pay or offset the cost of removing animal carcasses and offal from roads under the jurisdiction of local units of government – with priority to local units of government with a high deer population as determined by the Department of Natural Resources.

The Michigan Department of Transportation currently removes large animal remains from state trunkline highways with priority given to animals lying within the traveled portion of the roadway. How the remains are disposed of generally depends on the area. In highly populated areas the remains are removed and disposed of. In more rural areas the remains may be simply pushed into adjacent grassy or wooded areas. The bill would not necessarily impose additional responsibilities on the department and would therefore not increase state costs.

The bill indicates that the state treasurer may received money or other assets into the fund, including, but not limited to revenue received under Section 811o of the Michigan Vehicle Code. Section 811o is a section which would be created under a separate bill, HB 4509, to establish a white-tailed deer registration plate. HBs 4510 and HB 4509 are tie barred.

It is not clear how much money the white-tail deer plate proposed in HB 4509 would raise. As a result, we can not determine to what extent the bill would increase state revenue. We note that HB 4509 and HB 4510 appear to be in conflict in that HB 4509 would credit funds from the white-tail deer specialty plate to the Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF), the distribution of which is governed by Public Act 51 of 1951. HB 4510 indicates that the white-tailed deer specialty plate revenue may be credited to the proposed Michigan roadkill cleanup fund. To effect the distribution of funds from the MTF to the proposed Michigan roadkill cleanup fund could require an amendment of Act 51.