



Senate Fiscal Agency
P. O. Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536



BILL ANALYSIS

Telephone: (517) 373-5383
Fax: (517) 373-1986
TDD: (517) 373-0543

House Bill 5645 (Substitute S-1 as reported by the Committee of the Whole)
Sponsor: Representative Sandra Caul
House Committee: Local Government and Urban Policy
Senate Committee: Local, Urban and State Affairs

CONTENT

The bill would amend Revised Statute 14 of 1846, which concerns county officers, to require a register of deeds to appoint a deputy or deputies, one of whom would have to serve as the chief deputy. The register would have to employ personnel necessary to perform the functions and duties of the office of register of deeds. The number of employees would have to be approved by the county board of commissioners.

Presently, the deputy holds office at the pleasure of the register of deeds. The bill specifies that the register of deeds could revoke the deputy's appointment at any time. As currently required, the appointment or revocation would have to be in writing and filed with the county clerk.

The bill would delete language under which the register and his or her sureties are responsible for the faithful performance of his or her duties by the deputy.

MCL 53.91

Legislative Analyst: J.P. Finet

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no effect on State revenue or expenditures. Current law already requires the appointment of one deputy. Local government expenditures could be affected, to the extent that the bill resulted in a register of deeds office having a different number of staff members than under current law and that affected counties did not make offsetting changes in other budgetary areas.

Date Completed: 12-1-04

Fiscal Analyst: David Zin