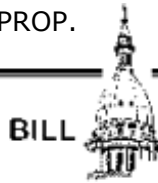




Senate Fiscal Agency
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**BILL ANALYSIS**

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Senate Bills 1178 through 1181 (as introduced 3-4-08)

Sponsor: Senator Tupac A. Hunter (S.B. 1178)
Senator Alan L. Cropsey (S.B. 1179)
Senator John Pappageorge (S.B. 1180)
Senator Bruce Patterson (S.B. 1181)

Committee: Commerce and Tourism

Date Completed: 3-11-08

CONTENT

Senate Bills 1178 through 1181 would amend various statutes to provide for State officials to authorize the use of State property without charge for the purpose of producing a film.

Senate Bill 1178 would amend the Management and Budget Act; Senate Bill 1179 would amend the Michigan Military Act; Senate Bill 1180 would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act; and Senate Bill 1181 would amend Public Act 286 of 1964, which provides for the organization, powers, and duties of the State Transportation Commission and the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Specifically, the bills would allow certain State officials to authorize a person engaged in the production of a film in Michigan to use, without charge, property owned by or under the control of the official's department or commission for the purpose of producing a film under terms and conditions established by the official. The economic and other benefits to the State of film production located in Michigan would be considered to be the value received by the applicable department or commission in exchange for the use of property it owned or controlled.

Senate Bill 1178 would apply to the Director of the Department of Management and Budget (DMB), who could authorize the use of property owned by or under the control of the DMB or a State agency. Senate Bill 1179 would apply to the Adjutant General (the Director of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs), who could authorize the use of property owned by or under the control of that Department. Senate Bill 1180 would apply to the Director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), who could authorize the use of property owned by or under control of the DNR. Senate Bill 1181 would apply to the Director of the Department of Transportation and the Transportation Commission, either of whom could authorize the use of property owned by or under the control of the Commission.

The Department Directors or Transportation Commission could not authorize the use of property owned by or under the control of the Departments or Commission for the production of a film that included obscene matter or an obscene performance, or for a production for which records are required to be maintained with respect to any performer under 18 USC 2257. (That Federal provision requires anyone who produces a film,

videotape, or other matter containing visual depictions of actual sexual conduct, that is produced for interstate or foreign shipment or transportation, to create and maintain individually identifiable records pertaining to every performer portrayed in the visual depiction.)

The Departments and the Commission would have to cooperate with the Michigan Film Office by giving it information about potential film locations owned by or under the control of the Department or Commission and the use of such property.

Under the bills, "film" would mean single media or multimedia entertainment content for distribution or exhibition to the general public by any means and media in any digital media format, film, or video tape, including a motion picture, a documentary, a television series, a television miniseries, a television special, interstitial television programming, long-form television, interactive television, music videos, interactive games, video games, commercials, internet programming, an internet video, a sound recording, a video, digital animation, or an interactive website.

"Obscene matter or an obscene performance" would mean matter described in Public Act 343 of 1984. (Public Act 343 prohibits disseminating, or possessing with intent to disseminate, any obscene material. Under that Act, "obscene" means any material that meets the following criteria:

- The average individual, applying "contemporary community standards", would find the material, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest.
- The reasonable person would find the material, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.
- The material depicts or describes sexual conduct in a patently offensive way.

"Contemporary community standards" means the customary limits of candor and decency in this State at or near the time of the alleged violation of Public Act 343.)

Proposed MCL 18.1125 (S.B. 1178)
Proposed MCL 32.837 (S.B. 1179)
Proposed MCL 324.512 (S.B. 1180)
Proposed MCL 247.806b (S.B. 1181)

Legislative Analyst: Patrick Affholter

FISCAL IMPACT

Senate Bill 1178

The bill would affect State expenditures to the extent that use of State property for film production would require additional expenditures on the part of the State, such as expenditures to relocate employees from a work area temporarily or changes in employees' work hours. Similarly, the bill could affect the timing of State revenue collections to the extent that use of State facilities for film production interfered with activities that result in the collection of revenue, such as operation of a Secretary of State branch office or a processing area in Treasury. Otherwise, the bill would have no impact on State revenue.

Senate Bill 1179

The bill would have an indeterminate, though potentially significant, fiscal impact on the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The potential costs to the Department could vary widely, and would depend upon whether the Adjutant General chose to allow a filmmaker to use Department property, as the bill would allow, and upon the nature of the property requested by the filmmaker.

The bill would have a significant fiscal impact on the Department if the Adjutant General allowed a filmmaker to use Department property that included sophisticated and costly military equipment such as helicopters or other similar military equipment. In the case of a helicopter, for example, the cost for the Department to operate a Blackhawk helicopter is \$4,578.88 per hour; for a Chinook helicopter, \$8,546.13. Under the bill, should the Adjutant General allow the use of such equipment, the Department would be required to absorb the cost.

Senate Bill 1180

The bill would result in a small and indeterminate loss of restricted funds for the State. If the Director of the Department of Natural Resources chose to waive the land user charges for films produced in State parks or forests, the Park Improvement Fund or the Forest Land User Fund would experience foregone revenue depending on the number of films produced and the length of time used for filming.

Senate Bill 1181

Any fiscal impact of this bill would be minimal to nonexistent.

Fiscal Analyst: Bruce Baker
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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.