



**Senate Fiscal Agency**  
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BILL ANALYSIS



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Senate Bill 981 (Substitute S-1 as reported by the Committee of the Whole)  
Sponsor: Senator Rick Jones  
Committee: Judiciary

**CONTENT**

The bill would amend the Revised Judicature Act to prohibit a person from intentionally contacting an individual whom the person knew to be a party to a divorce action filed with a court, or an immediate family member of that individual, with a direct solicitation to provide a legal service until the expiration of 14 days after the date the proof of service was filed with the court.

A knowing violation of the bill would be a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum fine of \$1,000 for a first offense. A second or subsequent violation would be a misdemeanor punishable by up to one year's imprisonment and/or a maximum fine of \$5,000.

The bill would take effect 90 days after it was enacted.

Proposed MCL 600.914

Legislative Analyst: Patrick Affholter

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Under the bill, there could be an increase in the number of misdemeanor violations as individuals were prosecuted for direct solicitation to provide a legal service before the expiration of 14 days after proof of service was filed with the court in a divorce action. The possible increase in misdemeanors could increase the requirements on local court systems and jails. Any associated fine revenue would be provided to public libraries.

Date Completed: 9-30-14

Fiscal Analyst: John Maxwell