



**Senate Fiscal Agency**  
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BILL ANALYSIS



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House Bill 5341 (as reported without amendment)  
Sponsor: Representative Thomas B. Hooker  
House Committee: Families, Children, and Seniors  
Senate Committee: Families, Seniors and Human Services

**CONTENT**

The bill would amend the Social Welfare Act to prohibit the release or inspection of documents authored by or obtained from an agency or organization other than the Department of Human Services unless required by Federal or State law, in response to a court order.

Under the Act, applications and records concerning an applicant for, or recipient of, assistance, except medical assistance, are public records and are open to inspection by people authorized by Federal or State government, the Department of Human Services, or officials of the county, city, or district involved, in connection with their official acts, and by the general public, subject to certain restrictions.

The bill specifies that documents, reports, or records authored by or obtained from another agency or organization could not be released or open for inspection unless required by other State or Federal law, in response to an order issued by a judge, magistrate, or other authorized judicial officer.

MCL 400.64

Legislative Analyst: Jeff Mann

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The bill could have a minor fiscal impact on the Department of Human Services (DHS), and would not likely affect local units of government.

The changes in the bill could reduce some of the workload for some DHS local office workers, possibly reducing the amount of staff time that is required to comply with the record requests. The DHS already charges for copying the records and for postage.

Date Completed: 12-4-14

Fiscal Analyst: Frances Carley