



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

BILL



ANALYSIS

**Telephone: (517) 373-5383**  
**Fax: (517) 373-1986**

Senate Bills 1029 and 1030 (as reported without amendment)  
Sponsor: Senator Margaret E. O'Brien (S.B. 1029)  
Senator David Knezek (S.B. 1030)  
Committee: Judiciary

### **CONTENT**

Senate Bill 1029 would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to prescribe misdemeanor and felony penalties for committing a moving violation that has criminal penalties, causing injury to or the death of a vulnerable roadway user.

A violation causing injury would be a misdemeanor punishable by up to one year's imprisonment and/or a maximum fine of \$1,000. A violation causing death would be a felony, punishable by up to 15 years' imprisonment and/or a maximum fine of \$7,500.

The bill would define "vulnerable roadway user" as a pedestrian, a wheelchair user, or a person operating a transportation device in compliance with the Code.

"Transportation device" would mean a device in, upon, or by which any person or property, or both, is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway by human power, or an electrical propulsion system with average power of 750 watts or one horsepower and a maximum speed on a paved level surface of 20 miles per hour, and that is regulated under the Code. The term would include, but not be limited to, the following:

- A cycle with one or more wheels, including a bicycle, or an electric bicycle that meets the requirements described above.
- An electric wheelchair that meets the requirements described above.

Senate Bill 1030 would amend the Code of Criminal Procedure to include a moving violation causing death to a vulnerable roadway user in the sentencing guidelines as a Class C felony against a person, with a statutory maximum sentence of 15 years' imprisonment.

Senate Bill 1030 is tie barred to Senate Bill 1029.

MCL 257.601c (S.B. 1029)  
777.12e (S.B. 1030)

Legislative Analyst: Patrick Affholter

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Senate Bill 1029 could have a negative fiscal impact on the State and local government. More misdemeanor and felony arrests and convictions could increase resource demands on law enforcement, court systems, community supervision, jails, and correctional facilities. The average cost to State government for felony probation supervision is approximately \$3,024 per probationer per year. For any increase in prison intakes, in the short term, the marginal cost to State government would be approximately \$3,764 per prisoner per year. In the long term, if the increased intake of prisoners increased the total prisoner population enough to require the Department of Corrections to open a housing unit or an entire facility, the marginal

cost to State government would be approximately \$34,550 per prisoner per year. Any associated increase in fine revenue would be dedicated to public libraries.

Senate Bill 1030 would have no fiscal impact on local government and an indeterminate fiscal impact on the State, in light of the Michigan Supreme Court's July 2015 opinion in *People v. Lockridge* (in which the Court struck down portions of the sentencing guidelines law). According to one interpretation of that decision, the sentencing guidelines are advisory for all cases. This means that the addition to the guidelines under the bill would not be compulsory for the sentencing judge. As penalties for felony convictions vary, the fiscal impact of any given felony conviction would depend on judicial decisions.

Date Completed: 9-27-16

Fiscal Analyst: Ryan Bergan

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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.