



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

BILL



ANALYSIS

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

House Bills 4302 and 4304 (as reported without amendment)

Sponsor: Representative Kimberly LaSata (H.B. 4302)

Representative Sam Singh (H.B. 4304)

House Committee: Law and Justice

Senate Committee: Judiciary

CONTENT

House Bill 4302 would amend the Michigan Penal Code to increase the maximum term of imprisonment for assaulting and causing serious impairment of a body function to certain public officers and employees from 10 years to 15 years.

Section 479 of the Penal Code prohibits a person from knowingly and willfully assaulting, battering, obstructing, or endangering a medical examiner, township treasurer, judge, magistrate, probation officer, parole officer, prosecutor, city attorney, court employee, court officer, or other officer or duly authorized person serving or attempting to serve or execute any process, rule, or order made or issued by lawful authority, or otherwise acting in the performance of his or her duties. Section 479 also prohibits a person from knowingly and willfully assaulting, battering, obstructing, or endangering an officer enforcing an ordinance, law, rule, order, or resolution of a municipality.

A person who violates Section 479 and causes serious impairment of a body function of an individual described above is guilty of a felony punishable by up to 10 years' imprisonment, or a maximum fine of \$10,000, or both. The bill would increase the maximum term from 10 years to 15 years.

House Bill 4304 would amend the sentencing guidelines in the Code of Criminal Procedure to increase from 10 years to 15 years the statutory maximum sentence for assaulting or obstructing certain officials causing serious impairment.

MCL 750.479 (H.B. 4302)

777.16x (H.B. 4304)

Legislative Analyst: Jeff Mann

FISCAL IMPACT

House Bill 4302 could have a negative fiscal impact on State and local government. More felony arrests and convictions, along with increased sentence lengths for certain violations, 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.

House Bill 4304 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 depends on judicial decisions.

Date Completed: 6-15-17

Fiscal Analyst: Ryan Bergan