



Senate Fiscal Agency
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House Bill 4332 (as reported without amendment)
Sponsor: Representative Karen Whitsett
House Committee: Local Government and Municipal Finance
Senate Committee: Housing and Human Services

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Home Rule City Act to prescribe penalties for subsequent blight violations of violations that were not corrected within 30 days of a final order finding the person in violation. The bill also would require a city to serve blight violation notices personally, or by first class mail or email if there were a good-faith effort to reach the individual, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, association, or other legal entity.

MCL 117.4q

BRIEF RATIONALE

The Act prescribes certain civil fines and criminal penalties for blight violations. According to testimony before the Senate Committee on Housing and Human Services, some property owners opt to pay repeated blight violation fines instead of paying to remediate the issue. Additionally, some property owners are absent or are not residents of the State and cities are unable to serve the violation notices. It has been suggested that penalties be created for repeated blight violations and that cities be offered alternative methods to serve violation notices.

PREVIOUS LEGISLATION

(This section does not provide a comprehensive account of previous legislative efforts on this subject matter.)

The bill is a reintroduction of House Bill 5650 of the 2021-2022 Legislative Session.

Legislative Analyst: Eleni Lionas

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill could have an indeterminate negative fiscal impact and an indeterminate positive fiscal impact on the State and local governments. New misdemeanor arrests and convictions under the bill could increase resource demands on law enforcement, court systems, community supervision, and jails; however, it is unknown how many people would be prosecuted under provisions of the bill. Local jail costs vary by jurisdiction and thus costs for local governments would vary. Local revenue to local libraries could increase under the bill as any additional revenue from imposed fines would go to local libraries.

Date Completed: 4-17-24

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