

COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION EQUIPMENT PURCHASES

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House Bill 4415 (H-1) as reported from committee

Sponsor: Rep. Tom Kuhn

Committee: Transportation and Infrastructure

Complete to 7-23-25

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4415 would amend Chapter IV of 1909 PA 283, which is known as the county road law, to revise provisions related to the purchase of machines, tools, appliances, and materials by the board of a county road commission.

The act currently requires such purchases to be made through advertisement and sealed bids if the amount of the expenditure exceeds \$15,000 or, under emergency conditions, \$50,000. The bill would increase those threshold amounts to \$75,000 and \$250,000, respectively.

In addition, the act currently requires purchase through advertisement and sealed bids of passenger vehicles and trucks that weigh less than 5,000 pounds. The bill would change this to apply to passenger vehicles and trucks that weigh less than 10,000 pounds.

Finally, the bill would require the above dollar amounts to be adjusted for inflation (and rounded to the nearest \$100) each fiscal year, beginning with the 2025-26 fiscal year, using the Detroit Consumer Price Index.

MCL 224.10

BACKGROUND:

According to its title, the purpose of 1909 PA 283 is “to revise, consolidate, and add to the laws relating to the establishment, opening, discontinuing, vacating, closing, altering, improvement, maintenance, and use of the public highways and private roads...” The act recodified a number of prior acts dealing with public highways and private roads. The act is divided into 20 chapters, most of which are no longer operative: 12 have been fully repealed; sections in four other chapters have been repealed; and Chapter IX, dealing with the opening of private roads, was declared unconstitutional.

The most significant and currently effective chapter of 1909 PA 283 is Chapter IV, referenced as the county road law, which provides legal authority for county road commissions.

There are currently 77 counties that have road commissions organized under 1909 PA 283. Six counties do not have a road commission under 1909 PA 283.¹

¹ Two of those counties (Macomb and Wayne) are organized as charter counties under 1966 PA 293. In Macomb County, the maintenance and management of the county road system is carried out by the Macomb County Department of Roads. In Wayne County, the maintenance and management of the county road system is carried out by the Wayne County Roads Division in the county Department of Public Services. In the four other counties (Berrien, Calhoun, Ingham, and Jackson), the responsibilities of the road commission are carried out by a county road department in county government.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill does not appear to have a material fiscal impact on local units of government or on state government.

POSITIONS:

A representative of the County Road Association testified in support of the bill. (6-3-25)

The following entities indicated support for the bill:

- Oakland County Road Commission (6-3-25)
- Michigan Association of Counties (6-25-25)

Legislative Analyst: E. Best
Fiscal Analyst: William E. Hamilton

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.