



Senate Fiscal Agency
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BILL ANALYSIS



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Senate Bill 71 (Substitute S-1 as reported)
Sponsor: Senator John N. Damoose
Committee: Civil Rights, Judiciary, and Public Safety

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Michigan Penal Code to prohibit an individual from intentionally and without permission entering or remaining on the nonpublic premises of the Mackinac Bridge by designating it as a "key facility".

MCL 750.552c

BRIEF RATIONALE

The current penalty for trespassing on the Mackinac Bridge is a misdemeanor punishable by up to 30 days imprisonment or a maximum fine of \$250, or both. According to testimony before the Senate Committee on Civil Rights, Judiciary, and Public Safety, the bridge is essential for commerce and transportation between the Upper and Lower peninsulas. Some believe that the current penalty does not go far enough to protect the safety and security of the bridge from trespassers or threats. Accordingly, it has been suggested to designate the bridge as a key facility to ensure that trespassers face a felony for a violation.

Legislative Analyst: Eleni Lionas

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have a small indeterminate fiscal impact on the State. The bill would impose a penalty of up to four years in prison and/or a fine of up to \$2,500 for entering and remaining on the premises of the Mackinac Bridge. The number of people that violated the law would likely be very small. If fines were imposed as opposed to prison time, this could have a positive fiscal impact on the State through the increased revenue. If prison time were imposed as opposed to a fine, this would have a negative fiscal impact on the State, through increased incarceration costs. If a prison sentence and a fine were imposed, it would likely have a negative fiscal impact as the cost of incarceration would outweigh the revenue from the fine.

The bill would have an indeterminate but likely negative fiscal impact on the State and local governments. New felony arrests and convictions under the bill could increase resource demands on law enforcement, court systems, community supervision, jails, and correctional facilities; however, it is unknown how many people would be prosecuted under provisions of the bill. The average cost to State government for felony probation supervision is approximately \$5,600 per probationer per year. For any increase in prison intakes the average annual cost of housing a prisoner in a State correctional facility is an estimated \$48,700. Per diem rates range from \$100 to \$431 (average per diem is \$135), depending on the facility's security level. Any associated increase in fine revenue would increase public libraries' funding.

Date Completed: 3-7-25

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