



Senate Fiscal Agency
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BILL ANALYSIS



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Senate Bill 981 (as introduced 6-11-14)
Sponsor: Senator Rick Jones
Committee: Judiciary

Date Completed: 9-15-14

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Revised Judicature Act to prohibit a person from intentionally contacting an individual whom the person knew to be a party to a divorce action filed with a court, or an immediate family member of that individual, with a direct solicitation to provide a legal service until the expiration of 30 days after the date the proof of service was filed with the court.

A knowing violation of the bill would be a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum fine of \$30,000 for a first offense. A second or subsequent violation would be a misdemeanor punishable by up to one year's imprisonment and/or a maximum fine of \$60,000.

Proposed MCL 600.914

Legislative Analyst: Patrick Affholter

FISCAL IMPACT

Under the bill, there could be an increase in the number of misdemeanor violations as individuals were prosecuted for direct solicitation to provide a legal service before the expiration of 30 days after proof of service was filed with the court in a divorce action. The possible increase in misdemeanors could increase the requirements on local court systems and jails. Any associated fine revenue would be provided to public libraries.

Fiscal Analyst: John Maxwell

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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.