



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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FORTUNE TELLING

House Bill 5181
Sponsor: Rep. Dick Allen
Committee: Consumers

Complete to 11-10-93

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 5181 AS INTRODUCED 11-4-93

Chapter XLII of the Michigan Penal Code prohibits fortune telling for money or gain. Sections 267 and 268 make it a misdemeanor to pretend, for money or gain, to predict future events by a number of different means: Section 267 references cards, tokens, trances, inspecting someone's hands (palmistry) or head (phrenology), mind reading, or astrology; while Section 268 prohibits all "other means." Section 269 makes it a misdemeanor to pretend to recover lost or stolen property or to make someone successful in business or games of chance through palmistry, phrenology, clairvoyancy, astrology or fortune telling by cards or other means. Section 270 specifies what may be given in evidence for an indictment and exempts from the chapter's provisions services conducted by "duly ordained" ministers of spiritualist churches incorporated in Michigan.

The bill would repeal this chapter of the penal code.

MCL 750.267 et al.

House Bill 5181 (11-10-93)