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HOUSE FISCAL AGENCY

124 N. Capitol Avenue
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HB5545 AS INTRODUCED

Sponsor: Rep. Doug Hart

Committee: FAMILY AND CHILDREN
SERVICES

Analyst(s): Risko, Robin

State Fiscal Impact

Cost: Indeterminate/Increase
Revenues: None

Local Fiscal Impact

Cost: None
Revenues: None

House Bill 5545 would establish a Michigan Marriage and Fatherhood Commission as an independent unit in the Legislative Council. Members of the Commission would consist of three members appointed by each of the following: Speaker of the House, President of the Senate, Governor, and Chief of Staff of the Michigan Supreme Court. Members would serve 5-year terms, and members appointed to fill vacancies would be appointed for the balance of the unexpired term. A Director would be appointed by the Legislative Council and serve at the pleasure of the Commission. The Commission would be authorized to hire employees and support staff, but would not have the authority to promulgate rules. The Commission would be charged with all of the following: stimulating and encouraging study and review of the status of marriage and fatherhood commission; gathering information regarding how society can create an environment for a healthy marriage and studying the marriage-strengthening practices; strengthening family relations and children's home life by directing attention to critical problems confronting marriage and fatherhood; recommending resources for counseling, assistance, and instruction on how to have a healthy marriage and successful parenting, including, but not limited to, information about the importance of communication, shared parental responsibility for children, child support responsibilities, domestic violence, and child abuse and neglect; identifying community resources for parents or children of parents who are divorced or separated; promoting marriage and parenting education courses; promoting more effective methods and strategies for fostering a climate that nurtures and enhances healthy, positive, and caring family interaction; and implementing ways to promote, strengthen, and increase awareness of the importance of marriage and fatherhood.

House Bill 5545 would create an indeterminate increase in costs to the state. Costs would be incurred for operation and maintenance of the Commission, office of the Director, and staff hired to assist in carrying out the duties of the Commission. The following types of costs could be expected: salaries and fringe benefits, travel, telephones, postage, training, education, office supplies, printing, equipment and maintenance, contractual services, rent, and technology-related costs.