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House Bill 5450 (Substitute H-1 as reported without amendment)

Sponsor: Representative William Van Regenmorter

House Committee: Judiciary Senate Committee: Judiciary

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Michigan Penal Code to delete and re-enact the felony of kidnapping. Currently, any person who willfully, maliciously, and without lawful authority does any of the following is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for life or any term of years:

- -- Forcibly or secretly confines or imprisons any other person within this State against his or her will.
- -- Forcibly carries or sends such a person out of this State.
- -- Forcibly seizes, confines, inveigles, or kidnaps any other person with intent to extort money or other valuable thing thereby or with intent either to cause the person to be confined or imprisoned secretly in this State against his or her will or to be held to service against his or her will.

The bill would delete that provision. Under the bill, a person would commit the crime of kidnapping if he or she knowingly restrained another person with the intent to hold the person for ransom or reward; use the person as a shield or hostage; engage in criminal sexual penetration or criminal sexual contact with the person; take the person outside of this State; or hold the person in involuntary servitude. A violation would be a felony punishable by imprisonment for life or any term of years, a maximum fine of \$50,000, or both.

Under the bill, "restrain" would mean to restrict a person's movements or confine the person so as to interfere with his or her liberty without his or her consent or without legal authority. The restraint would not have to exist for any particular length of time and could be related or incidental to the commission of other criminal acts.

MCL 750.349 Legislative Analyst: Patrick Affholter

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on State and local government. There are no data to indicate how many offenders would be convicted of kidnapping as proposed by the bill. In 2003, 63 offenders were convicted of kidnapping. Of these, 60 went to prison and three went to jail. Local governments would incur the costs of incarceration in local facilities, which vary by county. The State would incur the cost of felony probation at an annual average cost of \$2,000, as well as the cost of incarceration in a State facility at an average annual cost of \$30,000. Additional penal fine revenue would benefit public libraries.

Date Completed: 5-10-06 Fiscal Analyst: Lindsay Hollander