

Legislative Analysis



PUBLIC SERVICE ASSISTANTS GRANT PROGRAM ACT

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 5131 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. TC Clements
Committee: Government Operations
Complete to 9-29-21

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 5131 would create a new act, the Public Service Assistants Grant Program Act, to provide grants to law enforcement agencies for hiring public service assistants.

The new act would require the Department of State Police (MSP) to create, implement, and administer a program to award grants to *law enforcement agencies* for the purpose of hiring *public service assistants*. MSP would have to promulgate rules and procedures to implement the act, including those that govern the grant application and disbursement process and the method for establishing grant eligibility.

Public service assistant would mean a part-time employee of a law enforcement agency who is specially trained and unarmed and has no arrest or criminal enforcement powers.

Law enforcement agency would mean an entity that is established and maintained in accordance with Michigan law and is authorized by Michigan law to appoint or employ law enforcement officers as defined in the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) Act. It would include the Detroit Transportation Corporation.

MSP would have to provide the grants on a first-come, first-served basis to law enforcement agencies that become eligible for a grant by complying with MSP's application process.

The bill also would create the Public Service Assistants Fund in the Department of Treasury. The state treasurer could receive money or other assets from any source for deposit into the fund, including money appropriated to the fund. The state treasurer would have to direct the investment of the fund and credit to it interest and earnings from those investments. Money remaining in the fund at the close of the fiscal year would remain in the fund and not lapse to the general fund. MSP would be the administrator of the fund for auditing purposes.

MSP would have to expend money from the fund only to carry out the purpose of the new act.

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 5131 would likely create additional costs for the Department of State Police, while increasing revenues for local and county law enforcement agencies. Both the costs and revenues under the bill are of indeterminate magnitude. The costs for MSP administration of the grant program would likely include staff time for application intake and review, administration and monitoring of the grant program, and any necessary IT changes. Since the scope of the grants (mainly dependent on eligibility criteria and the amount of grant funding

available) is presently unknown, the total projected cost for administration cannot be estimated. Additionally, it is impossible to know how much additional revenue would be available for law enforcement agencies, as the bill does not provide an appropriation to the restricted Public Service Assistants Fund created under the bill.

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