Legislative Analysis



SECONDARY ROAD PATROL PROGRAM: FY 2015-16 MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT

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

House Concurrent Resolution 14

Sponsor: Rep. McCready Committee: Appropriations

Complete to 9-28-15

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

SUMMARY OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 14 AS INTRODUCED 8-19-15

House Concurrent Resolution 14 would waive the maintenance of effort (MOE) requirement mandated for county sheriffs' departments as a condition of receiving funding under the Secondary Road Patrol (SRP) Program for FY 2015-16, in addition to waiving the MOE requirement on cities and villages to be eligible for road patrol services by county sheriff's departments.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Established by 1978 PA 416, the Secondary Road Patrol Program provides grant assistance to county sheriffs' departments with the express purpose of patrolling county and local roads outside the boundaries of cities and villages. Sheriff deputies funded with SRP funds are specifically tasked with traffic control, criminal law enforcement, accident investigation, and emergency assistance while patrolling these secondary roads. Sheriff deputies may provide patrol services within cities and villages upon the approval of a resolution of the city or village's governing board.

The SRP Program is supported by a distribution from the Justice System Fund (MCL 600.181) to the Secondary Road Patrol and Training Fund (MCL 257.629e) equal to \$10 for each civil traffic violation. SRP grant funds are distributed to counties based on each county's share of transportation (roads) funding allocated in 1978.

To be eligible to receive SRP grants, each county must satisfy a maintenance of effort (MOE) requirement established as the number of FTE county-funded road patrol deputies employed on October 1, 1978. Statewide, the MOE requirement is 1,043 FTE county-funded road patrol deputies and, during FY 2014-15, the actual number of FTE county-funded road patrol deputies totaled 2,149. A county may reduce the level of FTE county-funded road patrol deputies to a level below its MOE requirement and not disqualify for SRP grants if it can show that it reduced its general services because of an economic hardship.¹

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¹ The act also permits the cities and villages to receive SRP-funded road patrol services within their boundaries if they meet a separate maintenance of effort requirement based on the highest number of sworn law enforcement officers employed by the city or village at any time within the three years prior to the adoption of a resolution authorizing county road patrol services.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The resolution would allow counties to receive and expend Secondary Road Patrol (SRP) grant funds in FY 2015-16 without meeting the maintenance of effort requirement specified in statute. Based on grant applications received to-date and current-year grant activities, a preliminary estimate from the Department of State Police (MSP) indicates that five counties (Branch, Iosca, Otsego, Sanilac, and Wayne) could potentially fail to meet the MOE requirement and would thus be ineligible for SRP assistance (totaling \$1,592,811). The resolution would also waive the MOE requirement to allow cities and villages to receive road patrol services from the county sheriff's departments.

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[■] This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.