

Legislative Analysis



MICHIGAN KNIFE RIGHTS ACT

House Bill 4066 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Steven Johnson
Committee: Local Government and Municipal Finance
Complete to 4-16-21

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

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

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4066 would create a new act, the Michigan Knife Rights Act, to prohibit a *political subdivision* from enacting an ordinance, rule, or tax relating to the registration, licensing, transportation, possession, carrying, sale, transfer, purchase, gift, devise, or use of a *knife* or knife-making components that was more restrictive than state law. A political subdivision also could not enact a rule or ordinance relating to the manufacture of a knife that was more restrictive than a rule or ordinance relating to the manufacture of any other commercial goods.

Political subdivision would mean a county, city, village, township, special district, or municipal corporation or a board, commission, or agency of any of those entities.

Knife would mean a cutting instrument and would include a sharpened or pointed blade.

An existing or future rule or ordinance that conflicted with the bill would be void.

BACKGROUND:

As introduced, the bill is identical to House Bill 5286 of the 2019-20 legislative session as that bill was passed by the House of Representatives.

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4066 could have a fiscal impact on local units of government. Penalties for violations of ordinances of political subdivisions are typically either misdemeanors or civil infractions punishable by fines or imprisonment, or both. Depending on the number of political subdivisions that have existing ordinances that are more restrictive than state law, depending on the number of convictions for violations of these ordinances, and depending on the associated penalties assessed, local units could experience a reduction in costs related to county jails and/or a reduction in penal fine revenue. Costs of local incarceration in county jails and how those costs are financed vary by jurisdiction. Any decrease in penal fine revenue would decrease funding for public and county law libraries, which are the constitutionally designated recipients of those revenues.

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