

Legislative Analysis



PUBLIC SERVANTS SERVING AS CERTAIN PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS

Phone: (517) 373-8080
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Senate Bill 17 as passed by the Senate
Sponsor: Sen. Dale Zorn
House Committee: Local Government and Municipal Finance
Senate Committee: Local Government
Complete to 2-13-21

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

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 17 would amend 1968 PA 317, which governs contracts of public servants with public entities, to increase the size of communities for which public servants may serve as specified public safety officers, or perform other services, and to increase the public safety positions that public servants in those communities may hold.

Section 2 of the act generally prohibits public servants from being a party to a contract with the public entity of which they are an employee or officer and from negotiating such a contract. However, section 3a provides that this does not prohibit a public servant in a city, village, township, or county with a population of less than 25,000 from serving as emergency medical services personnel or as a firefighter (as long as the firefighter is not full-time, the fire chief, or someone who negotiates on behalf of the firefighters). A city, village, township, or county with a population of less than 25,000 can also authorize a public servant to provide other additional services for that local unit of government.

The bill would raise the population thresholds described above so that the exceptions would apply to local units of government with a population of less than 40,000.

The bill would also expand the public safety professions specifically allowed under the act. Under the bill, public servants in those local units of government could serve as emergency services personnel or as a firefighter, fire chief, police officer, chief of police, or public safety officer. However, a public servant could serve as a firefighter, fire chief, police officer, chief of police, or public safety officer only if he or she does not negotiate collective bargaining agreements with the local unit of government on behalf of any of those groups.

Under the bill, a city, village, township, or county with a population of less than 40,000 could also authorize a public servant to provide other additional services for that local unit of government.

The bill would take effect 90 days after its enactment.

MCL 15.323a

FISCAL IMPACT:

Senate Bill 17 would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on local units of government. Presumably, local units of government would use the provisions of the bill to decrease costs. Any fiscal impact would depend on the decisions of each local unit of government affected by the provisions of the bill as they relate to the number of eligible emergency services and public safety positions public servants were authorized to dually serve in and the compensation provided to public servants serving in any of those positions.

There would be no fiscal impact on state government.

Legislative Analysts: Rick Yuille
Jenny McInerney
Fiscal Analyst: Ben Gielczyk

■ 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.