

Legislative Analysis



ALLOW MANUFACTURE, SALE, AND POSSESSION OF BRASS KNUCKLES, BLUDGEONS, AND RELATED DEVICES

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

House Bill 4830 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Steven Johnson
Committee: Judiciary
Complete to 11-1-21

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

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4830 would amend the Michigan Penal Code to eliminate a prohibition against manufacturing, selling, offering for sale, or possessing a blackjack, slungshot,¹ billy, metallic knuckles, sand club, or bludgeon.

It is currently a felony to manufacture, sell, offer to sell, or possess any of the above. A violation is punishable by imprisonment for up to five years or a fine of up to \$2,500, or both.

MCL 750.224

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4830 would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on the state and on local units of government. The bill would result in reduced costs, as a person would no longer be charged with a felony for manufacturing, selling, offering for sale, or possessing a blackjack, slungshot, billy, metallic knuckles, sand club, sand bag, or bludgeon. Reduced felony charges would result in reduced costs related to state prisons and state probation supervision. In fiscal year 2020, the average cost of prison incarceration in a state facility was roughly \$42,200 per prisoner, a figure that includes various fixed administrative and operational costs. State costs for parole and felony probation supervision averaged about \$4,300 per supervised offender in the same year. Those costs are financed with state general fund/general purpose revenue.

The fiscal impact on local court systems would depend on how provisions of the bill affected court caseloads and related administrative costs. It is difficult to project the actual fiscal impact to courts due to variables such as law enforcement practices, prosecutorial practices, judicial discretion, case types, and complexity of cases.

Any decrease in penal fine revenues would decrease funding for public and county law libraries, which are the constitutionally designated recipients of those revenues.

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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.

¹ A slungshot is a weapon that consists of a weight, or "shot," such as a ball or a stone, that is affixed to the end of a short cord or other flexible handle, often by being wound into the center of a knot called a "monkey's fist." The weapon is derived from a sailor's tool, with a longer cord, used to cast line (e.g., a mooring line) from one location to another. Carrying or attempting to use a slungshot is illegal in several states, including Michigan.