



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH
LANSING

STANLEY "SKIP" PRUSS
DIRECTOR

Analysis of Enrolled Senate Bills 1345-7

Topic: Charter Commission Time Frames
Sponsor: Senator Barcia
Co-Sponsors: Senator Gleason
Committee: Senate Local, Urban and State Affairs
House Intergovernmental, Regional and Urban Affairs

Date Introduced: May 28, 2008

Date Enrolled: December 18, 2008

Date of Analysis: December 23, 2008

Position: The Department of Labor & Economic Growth supports the bills.

Problem/Background: Current law creates a window in which a city or village charter commission has two years in which to draft a charter and get it approved by the voters. This time period is often insufficient, because a city charter is a complex document and the charter commissioners are volunteers who have other jobs and responsibilities in the community.

Description of Bill: The bills amend the Home Rule Village Act, the State Boundary Commission Act, and the Home Rule Cities Act, respectively. The bills extend the time limit for consideration of a proposed charter by a city or village from the current two years to three years. The House adopted a substitute to Senate Bill 1346 that added Section 10 of the Boundary Commission Act to the bill.

Summary of Arguments

Pro: Two years is the minimum time needed to prepare and adopt a city or village charter. Years of hard work should not be thrown away because the clock ran out. The bills will allow these charter commissions to complete their work, knowing there will be plenty of time at the end for voter consideration.

Con: The bills are unnecessary. Two years is usually sufficient time for a charter commission to complete its work.

OFFICE OF POLICY & LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
OTTAWA BUILDING • P.O. BOX 30004 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7504
www.michigan.gov • (517) 241-4580

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Fiscal/Economic Impact: The bills will have no fiscal impact on the state or local government.

Other State Departments: None.

Any Other Pertinent Information: None.

Administrative Rules Impact: No new or revised administrative rules will be needed as a result of this bill.