



"Gateway to Oakland County"

CITY OF HAZEL PARK

MUNICIPAL OFFICES

111 East Nine Mile Road • Hazel Park, Michigan 48030

May 12, 2020

To: Rep. Graham Filler, chair, and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

The City of Hazel Park supports House Bill 5488 to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure and to extend by three years the ability of trial courts to impose certain reasonable costs on defendants as incurred by trial courts and as set forth by statute. The current Code of Criminal Procedure, MCL 769.1k(iii), provides for trial courts to impose any cost reasonably related to actual costs incurred by the trial court and has a sunset provision of October 17, 2020. MCL 769.1k(1)(a) also provides for the assessment of minimum state costs, as required by MCL 769.1j. State revenue is not in jeopardy under the sunset provision, but local court funding will be lost if it is not extended. Failure to extend the sunset provision will have a catastrophic impact on local courts in Michigan, many already facing a funding crisis as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Such a situation will have a detrimental impact on the economy at every level, particularly local governments.

The City of Hazel Park supports House Bill 5488 and the three-year extension of the sunset provision, but we do recognize that this is not the final solution to the funding crisis that some courts face, particularly in times of economic crisis. We have been following the progress of the Trial Court Funding Commission (TCFC) and are aware of the report and recommendations released in the September 6, 2019 Trial Court Funding Commission Final Report. The City of Hazel Park, as do other similarly situated municipalities in Michigan, have serious concerns regarding the effective implementation of the TCFC's recommendations as currently written and actual achievement of the stated goals of the TCFC. We welcome the opportunity to discuss our concerns and solutions at the appropriate time, working together to find a common-sense solution that maintains the autonomy of local courts and local government consistent with home rule for the long-term and takes into consideration the actual input of municipalities. In fact, the City of Hazel Park would like to participate in any committee or working group organized in the future to represent the concerns of local governments and district courts. In the meantime, House Bill 5488 offers an opportunity to extend the sunset provision for three years so as not to rush this legislation and allow for the municipal voice to be heard and all levels of government to come together for a long-term solution that recognizes the importance of maintaining local autonomy.

Sincerely,

Edward Klobucher
City Manager, City of Hazel Park

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