

Administrative Rule Analysis



Mary Ann Cleary, Director
Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

State Emergency Relief (SER)

Department: Human Services
Agency: Family Program Policy Administration
Rule Set No.: 2014-027-HS

Complete to: 5/4/2015

BACKGROUND & SUMMARY OF PROPOSED RULES SUBMITTED TO JCAR

Rules promulgated under PA 280 of 1939, the Social Welfare Act, pertain to the responsibilities of the state to provide general assistance to poor or unfortunate persons, among other responsibilities. The proposed rule changes pertain to the State Emergency Relief Program which provides immediate help to individuals and families facing extreme hardship or emergencies that might threaten their health or safety. These rule changes are meant to eliminate obsolete language, revise language to more closely match federal rules, and provide a program change by requiring a fiscal year cap on the amount of relocation services an individual receives each year.

The proposed rules also provide that the basic monthly income need standards of a SER group shall be established by the department based on available actual appropriations. Other proposed changes include language that requires the department to establish maximum limits for certain assets and to determine certain allowance amounts and fiscal year caps as well. The recommended rule changes would also rescind two rules that are considered obsolete or unnecessary.¹

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED RULES

The proposed amendments to existing rules by 2014-027-HS may provide a substantial cost savings to the State of Michigan through the implementation of a fiscal year cap on relocation services. Current rules and policy include no limit on the amount of relocation assistance a household can receive within a fiscal year. The amount of any potential savings is indeterminate and is dependent upon how many households would have exceeded any new annual limit and would have received additional assistance in the past. The proposed rule changes would have no significant fiscal impact on local units of government.

Fiscal Analyst: Viola Bay Wild

¹ R 400.7025 and R 400.7028