

HCS SB 951 -- TRAFFIC VIOLATION REVENUES

SPONSOR: Cauthorn (Nance)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Local Government by a vote of 8 to 5.

Currently, if a city, town, or village receives more than 45% of its total annual revenue from fines for traffic violations, all revenue from these violations in excess of 45% must be sent to the Department of Revenue. Effective September 1, 2008, this substitute reduces the amount to 35% of the annual general operating revenue and includes the court costs for the traffic violations in the amount. Failure to send the excess revenue to the department in a timely manner as determined by the department director may result in the city, town, or village being subject to an annual audit by the State Auditor.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill is needed to make sure that the police departments in certain smaller cities don't use speed traps to raise revenue instead of tax increases which often cannot receive voter approval.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Cauthorn; and Representative Nance.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Julie Jinkens McNitt, Legislative Analyst