

FISCAL NOTE

April 29, 2025

Bill No:	HB 273	Printer's No:	981	Sponsor:	Merksi (D)
-----------------	--------	----------------------	-----	-----------------	------------

COST / (SAVINGS)

Fund (s)	2024-25	2025-26
General Fund – DCED General Government Operations	No fiscal impact	See “FISCAL IMPACT”

SUMMARY: This bill amends Title 53 (Municipalities Generally), in neighborhood blight reclamation and revitalization, providing for county property maintenance code and for Municipal Codes Enforcement Grant Program and municipal neighborhood mitigation fund; and imposing penalties.

ANALYSIS: HB 273 creates a Municipal Codes Enforcement Grant Program within the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to issue competitive grants to municipalities that do not currently have a code enforcement program to be used for establishing code enforcement programs, hiring certified personnel, training personnel for certification, and for establishing county code enforcement programs.

DCED shall review applications from municipalities for the program, establish guidelines, and submit an annual report including the total amount of grants awarded and recipients.

Each grant shall be limited to a maximum of \$100,000 per recipient. Municipalities shall provide matching funds equal to the amount of the grant. Recipients may not receive grants for more than three consecutive years and may not use grants for personnel unless the individual is certified or acquired relevant training.

HB 273 also permits municipalities with an established code enforcement program to establish a municipal neighborhood mitigation fund for which penalties under the bill ranging from \$25 to \$1,000 shall be deposited and used to mitigate code violations.

This act shall take effect in 180 days.

FISCAL IMPACT: Code enforcement programs and municipal neighborhood mitigation funds established in the bill would be optional and administered at the local level.

The bill does not make an appropriation to fund the Municipal Codes Enforcement Grant Program. The estimated annual cost to DCED is \$146,422 (\$95,551 in salary and \$50,871 in benefits) for one position to administer the grant program if funded.