

**LOCAL  
FISCAL IMPACT**

**Drafting Number:** LLS 13-0581  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. McLachlan

**Date:** January 14, 2013  
**Bill Status:** House Judiciary  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Alex Schatz (303-866-4375)

**TITLE:** CONCERNING RAISING THE MAXIMUM FINE THAT MAY BE ASSESSED BY A MUNICIPAL COURT.

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary</b>	<b>FY 2013-2014</b>	<b>FY 2014-2015</b>
<b>State Revenue</b>		
<b>State Expenditures</b>		
<b>FTE Position Change</b>		
<b>Effective Date:</b> Upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.		
<b>Appropriation Summary for FY 2013-2014:</b> None required.		
<b>Local Government Impact:</b> See Local Government Impact section.		

**Summary of Legislation**

Under current law, fines imposed by a municipal court are capped at \$1,000 unless a home rule city or town has superceded statute in its charter or by ordinance. This bill raises the statutory limit on municipal court fines to \$5,000.

**Local Government Impact**

The bill increases revenue from municipal court fines to affected cities and towns. Fines will increase for some municipal violations that currently result in the maximum \$1,000 fine.

Increasing the maximum municipal court fine may also impact county jails. The option to impose larger fines may reduce the number of offenders sentenced to jail for serious municipal violations. Larger fines may increase the number of offenders failing to pay fines, thereby increasing the number of warrants issued to detain municipal offenders in county jail. The net effect of these impacts on county jails is estimated to be offsetting and minimal.

**Departments Contacted**

Judicial Branch  
Local Affairs

Public Safety  
Law

Natural Resources