

**FINAL  
FISCAL NOTE**

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<b>Drafting Number:</b> LLS 13-0581	<b>Date:</b> June 6, 2013
<b>Prime Sponsor(s):</b> Rep. McLachlan Sen. Newell	<b>Bill Status:</b> Signed into Law
	<b>Fiscal Analyst:</b> Alex Schatz (303-866-4375)

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**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> The bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on April 18, 2013.		
<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Under current law, fines imposed by a municipal court are capped at \$1,000 unless a home rule city or town has superceded statute in its charter or by ordinance.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 \$2,650, and adjusts the limit for inflation on January 1 of each year, starting January 1, 2014.

**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	Public Safety	Natural Resources
Local Affairs	Law	