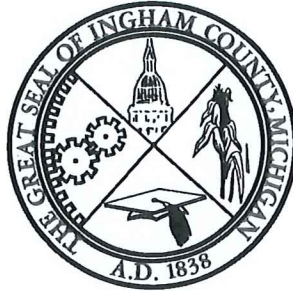


OFFICE OF THE INGHAM COUNTY CONTROLLER

County Courthouse, P. O. Box 319, Mason, MI 48854
Phone: (517) 676-7206 FAX: (517) 676-7306

Timothy J. Dolehanty, ICMA-CM
Controller/Administrator
Email: tdolehanty@ingham.org



Teri Morton, Deputy Controller
Phone: (517) 676-7218
Email: tmorton@ingham.org

Michael Townsend, Budget Director
Phone: (517) 676-7218
Email: mtownsend@ingham.org

Jared Cypher, Deputy Controller
Phone: (517) 676-7229
Email: jcypher@ingham.org

June 27, 2019

Michigan Association of Counties
110 W. Michigan Avenue
Suite 200
Lansing, MI 48933

Re: Resolution in Support of Reforming the Cash Bail System and Recognizing the Efforts of Ingham County Courts and the Pretrial Division of the Circuit Court

Dear Michigan Association of Counties:

For your records and information, enclosed is a Resolution passed by the Ingham County Board of Commissioners in Support of Reforming the Cash Bail System and Recognizing the Efforts of Ingham County Courts and the Pretrial Division of the Circuit Court.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rachel Prettenhofer".

Rachel Prettenhofer
Executive Secretary
Ingham County Controller's Office

/rkp

Enclosures

RECEIVED
JUL - 1 2019
BY: CB

Introduced by the Law & Courts Committee of the:

INGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REFORMING THE CASH BAIL SYSTEM AND
RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF INGHAM COUNTY COURTS AND THE
PRETRIAL DIVISION
OF THE CIRCUIT COURT**

RESOLUTION # 19 – 289

WHEREAS, the Ingham County Board of Commissioners wishes to promote a bail system in which individuals are detained in pretrial confinement only when they pose a danger to society or are a flight risk, not due to financial inability to pay for their own release; and

WHEREAS, Michigan Court Rules have established factors for pretrial release decisions, including risk of flight and danger to the defendant or others; and

WHEREAS, despite these rules, many defendants across the state are held in pretrial confinement simply because they lack financial resources to pay for their release; and

WHEREAS, the Ingham County Board of Commissioners has identified in its Strategic Plan the overarching long-term objective of assuring fair and efficient judicial processing; and

WHEREAS, House Bills 4351 through 4359, a bipartisan bail reform bill package, were introduced in the Michigan House of Representatives on March 13, 2019 with the intent of overhauling Michigan's cash bail system; and

WHEREAS, proposed reform includes the issuance of personal recognizance bonds instead of cash bail in most cases, unless the defendant is considered a danger or a flight risk; and if the judge does find that the person is a danger or flight risk, then multiple factors, including financial status, would need to be taken into account when deciding the cash bail amount; and

WHEREAS, in March 2019, the Ingham County Pretrial Services Division of the 30th Circuit Court began using an updated "Michigan Pretrial Risk Assessment Instrument" and initiated the practice of submitting bond recommendation reports to the Courts, which do not include a bond type or financial amount; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of this new practice was the result of participation in the Michigan Pretrial Reform Coalition over the past four years, as well as attendance and participation at the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies National Conferences the last two years; and

WHEREAS, on April 19, 2019, Governor Whitmer signed Executive Order 2019-10 to form the "Michigan Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration," which is charged with examining how state laws, policies, and budgetary decisions affect who is in jail in Michigan and how long they stay; and

WHEREAS, the task force will submit policy recommendations to the governor and legislature for consideration during the 2020 legislative session; and

WHEREAS, in May 2019, the Ingham County Pretrial Services Division hosted the Michigan Pretrial Reform Coalition where member representatives of the Pew Charitable Trust were invited to lead a roundtable discussion regarding the “Michigan Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration;” and

WHEREAS, the Pew Charitable Trust has been invited to provide technical assistance to the state task force, including the gathering and analyzing of data from jails, courts, and other agencies, the review of state laws and policies, and the facilitation of stakeholder engagement.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners hereby demonstrates its support of the Michigan Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration and of legislation that would reform the State’s cash bail system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board commends the Judges of the 55th District Court and 30th Circuit Court on their progressive implementation of cash bail.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board commends the Pretrial Services Division of the Circuit Court on its continued dedication to advancement of the services provided to the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners directs the County Controller to send copies of this resolution to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, members of the Michigan House Judiciary Committee, the Ingham County state legislative delegation, and the Michigan Association of Counties.

LAW & COURTS: Yeas: Koenig, Slaughter, Celentino, Crenshaw, Polsdofer, Trubac
Nays: None **Absent:** Schafer **Approved 06/12/2019**