

# HB 13-1060



## BUILDING A STRONG PARTNERSHIP WITH COLORADO'S CITIES AND TOWNS

To: Members, Senate Local Government Committee  
From: Meghan Storrie, Legislative & Policy Advocate  
Date: March 8, 2013  
Subject: HB 13- 1060 — Concerning Raising Municipal Court Fines from \$1,000 to \$2,650

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### HB 13-1060 – YOUR “YES” VOTE RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED

**HB 13-1060 allows municipal courts to fine up to \$2,650 for guilty parties to better deter municipal violations.** Often many of our cities and towns have their hands tied when dealing with larger companies. For example, in the case of overweight trucks, many companies find it more fiscally practical to just pay the fine rather than fix the problem. This results in more damage to roads and costing municipalities precious dollars.

**HB 13-1060 does NOT require that municipal courts raise their fine limits.** This bill allows municipalities the opportunity to increase their municipal courts fines. If a municipality does not want to increase their court fines, they will not be required to do so.

**HB 13-1060 updates fine levels that have not been increased in over 21 years.** Municipal fine levels have been fixed for over two decades. Therefore, these fines are much less of a deterrent for those who commit municipal violations. Allowing for a fine larger than \$1,000 would provide greater leverage for a municipal court judge to gain compliance with conditions imposed at sentencing.

**HB 13-1060 will resolve the problem of jurisdictional limits on restitution.** Some municipal judges are concerned about imposing restitution in an amount higher than their jurisdictional fine limit. This is particularly an issue when the damages in a case exceed \$1,000, which they often do. Raising the cap will help ease the concern and give judges peace of mind when imposing restitution up to \$2,650.

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