

## Penal Fines Fact Sheet (Public Act 59, 1964)

Since 1835, Michigan's Constitution has contained a provision stating that income from penal fines shall be used for the support of public libraries. State statutes require that penalties collected for violations of the state penal laws be paid to the county treasurers. Therefore, penal fines are local funds, collected within each county, distributed to public libraries serving residents of the county.

Annually, the Library of Michigan certifies to county treasurers the public libraries that are entitled to legally receive penal fines and the number of residents served by each public library. During the year additional letters may be sent to county treasurers who have adopted, a more frequent schedule of distributing penal fines to libraries in their county.

The county treasurer distributes penal fine money to county law libraries in accordance with a prescribed fixed amt (P.A. 236,1961 as amended) and to public libraries on a per capita basis (P.A. 59, 1964) by August 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. The library of Michigan collects the county distribution data and compiles a statewide penal fine report.