



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

Many citizens feel that more should be done to protect and improve the habitat of the state's fish and game. However, people also recognize that the DNR is operating under tight fiscal constraints. Therefore, many sports clubs and organizations have voluntarily undertaken projects to improve fish and game habitats and many sportspersons have donated money to increase anti-poaching programs under the Wildlife Resource Protection Fund by purchasing conservation law enforcement stamps. Each year thousands of sportsfisher clubs and organizations undertake fisheries habitat improvement programs. However, many groups do not have the financial resources to take on extensive projects. Some people believe that a program should be established whereby people could make voluntary contributions to fisheries habitat improvement programs similar to the way in which contributions are made under the conservation law enforcement stamp program.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The bill would amend the Hunting and Fishing License Act to establish fisheries habitat improvement stamps and the fisheries habitat improvement grant fund in order to provide for the improvement of fisheries habitats.

Stamps. The fisheries habitat improvement stamps would be similar to conservation law enforcement stamps in that the stamps would be issued in the amounts of \$2 and \$5 and that money from the sale of stamps would be contributed to a resource protection fund. In the case of the fisheries improvement stamps, money from the stamps would enable the purchaser of the stamps to contribute to the Fisheries Habitat Improvement Fund.

The fund. The fund would consist of money generated from voluntary contributions to the fisheries habitat improvement program fund and would be appropriated by the legislature for expenditure by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in the form of grants to organizations and sports clubs to provide fish habitat improvement measures detailed under the bill. Before approval of a grant, projects would have to indicate:

- consistency with policies, management goals, and objectives of the fisheries division of the DNR;
- handicap accessibility, if feasible and applicable to the nature of the project;
- that the project would be initiated and completed within the grant cycle of two years;
- a positive benefit to cost ratio;
- evidence of land control for the proposed area; and
- 25 percent matching funds, or services that were determined by the DNR to be appropriate.

MCL 316.325, 316.501, and 316.604

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

Fiscal information is not available.

House Bill 6102 as introduced
First Analysis (9-26-90)

Sponsor: Rep. Roland G. Niederstadt
Committee: Tourism, Fisheries, & Wildlife

ARGUMENTS:

For:

The bill will allow sportsfishing clubs and organizations to continue to undertake habitat improvement projects by providing much needed contributions. In addition, the bill would establish a program for fish habitat improvement that is similar in concept to programs which currently exist for improvement and protection of the state's game resources.

POSITIONS:

The Michigan Steelhead and Salmonfisher Association supports the bill. (9-26-90)

The Michigan United Conservation Clubs supports the bill. (9-26-90)