



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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DRAG RACING ON ICE

**House Bill 6142 as introduced
First Analysis (11-28-90)**

**Sponsor: Rep. Bart Stupak
Committee: Conservation, Recreation, &
Environment**

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

Drag racing is a form of racing entertainment included in many festivals and carnivals during both the summer and winter, but is prohibited on public roadways in Michigan. The sport has become so popular that a drag racing circuit was recently established by a group of nonprofit service organizations to include Wisconsin, Michigan and other northern states. However, many feel that Michigan is hampered in its efforts to hold drag racing competitions because its frozen lakes and streams are considered public roadways, and thus, races cannot be held on some of the best lakes for racing.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The bill would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to allow drag racing to be conducted as entertainment on a frozen navigable public lake during a winter carnival or similar festival held by a public service or charitable organization.

MCL 257.626a

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

Fiscal information is not available. (11-27-90)

ARGUMENTS:

For:

Drag racing is a fun sport enjoyed by people year-round. However, the concern has been raised that Michigan is at a disadvantage when trying to hold races because it cannot use public lakes. Therefore, promoters of races at winter festivals and carnivals have to look for a suitable lake on private land in order to hold a race. The bill will strengthen the state's ability to attract more races and thus promote its tourism industry by allowing races to be held on public lakes. Continued certification of drag racing events by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources will ensure that the races continue to be held in a safe manner.

POSITIONS:

There are no positions on the bill.