



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

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**GREAT LAKES PROTECTION FUND**

**Senate Bill 396 with House committee amendments**  
**First Analysis (5-24-89)**

**RECEIVED**

**JUN 08 1989**

**Sponsor: Sen. Vern Ehlers**

**Senate Committee: Natural Resources and  
Environmental Affairs**

**House Committee: Conservation, Recreation, &  
Environment**

***THE APPARENT PROBLEM:***

The Great Lakes Protection Fund and Agreement were developed as a result of the ongoing agreement between several Great Lakes states to attack environmental problems on a region-wide and basin-wide approach. The states agreed to establish the fund because they felt that the development of a stable and predictable funding source would be one way to ensure the continued protection of the Great Lakes. Although \$25 million of the Environmental Protection Bond Implementation Act of 1988 has been allocated for Michigan's participation in the fund and legislation to implement Michigan's participation in the fund (House Bill 4709) is pending before the Senate, legislation is still needed to authorize Michigan's participation in the fund.

***THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:***

The bill would create the Great Lakes Protection Fund Authorization Act to authorize the governor to take the steps necessary to join Michigan with other states in the formation and operation of the Great Lakes Protection Fund. Michigan would be allowed to join as long as only the interest and earnings of the fund were expended for activities related to Great Lakes research and protection, including contamination cleanup, research and assessment of pollution control policies and Great Lakes animals, and the collection and analysis of data on the Great Lakes. If fewer than four states enacted legislation and provided funding to participate in the Great Lakes Protection Fund by February 28, 1991, the governor would be required to withdraw Michigan from participation in the fund and to equitably distribute assets of the Great Lakes Protection Fund. However, a two-thirds vote of the states with legislation enacted would provide an extension of the February 28 deadline.

The bill is tie-barred to House Bill 4709, which would implement the state's participation in the Great Lakes Protection Fund.

***HOUSE COMMITTEE ACTION:***

The House Conservation, Recreation and Environment committee amended the bill to specify that money in the Great Lakes Protection Fund would be used only for activities related to Great Lakes research and protection.

***FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:***

According to the Department of Natural Resources, the bill would have no fiscal implications for the state. (5-23-89)

***ARGUMENTS:***

***For:***

There is a great need for long-term funding for projects and programs that will ensure the protection and maintenance of the Great Lakes. In particular, there is a

need for the long-term funding of projects to conduct research on the nature and extent of Great Lakes problems, to develop new and improved environmental cleanup technologies, and to examine the environmental and human health effects of the Great Lakes. Costs for the cleanup, improvement, and research of the Great Lakes are extremely high, and a stable, predictable long-term funding source for these costs is not currently available. The bill, in conjunction with House Bill 4709, will complete the legislation necessary to provide for Michigan's participation in a stable source of funding to meet costs necessary to ensure the protection of the Great Lakes in a region-wide, basin-wide effort.

***POSITIONS:***

The Department of Natural Resources supports the bill. (5-23-89)

The Michigan Recreation and Parks Association supports the bill. (5-23-89)