



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

Washington Square Building, Suite 1025  
Lansing, Michigan 48909  
Phone: 517/373-6466

**CONVEY PROPERTY IN OTTAWA COUNTY**

House Bill 4115 as introduced  
First Analysis (2-16-89)

Sponsor: Rep. Alvin Hoekman  
Committee: State Affairs

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***THE APPARENT PROBLEM:***

A parcel of land in Park Township, Ottawa County, was donated to the state in 1973 by the Nibbelink and Winstrom families. The property is adjacent to another parcel of land which was later donated to the township by the same families for use as a park area. It was intended that both pieces of property be used for the park area, but the former parcel has never been conveyed to the township. Legislation is needed to correct this oversight in order for park personnel to utilize the land.

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

The bill would authorize the Department of Natural Resources, on behalf of the state, to convey state-owned land in Park Township, Ottawa County, to the township. The land would be conveyed by quitclaim deed for the consideration of \$1, with the state reserving all coal, oil, gas, and other mineral rights. Under the bill, the conveyance would specify that the property be used in conjunction with its adjacent park area, and used exclusively as a permanent wildlife, waterfowl, or natural area, whichever was determined the most beneficial to the public welfare. Otherwise, the property would revert back to the state, which would assume no liability for improvements made by the township.

Under the bill, no hunting of wildlife would be permitted on the property, unless for the public welfare. A plaque, bearing the words, "In Memory of James Nibbelink and Edith Winstrom by Ruth I. Winstrom and William Winstrom" would be erected on the site.

***FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:***

The House Fiscal Agency reports that the bill would have no fiscal implications for the state. (2-15-89)

***ARGUMENTS:***

***For:***

The bill would correct an apparent oversight and allow township park personnel to use land now owned by the Department of Natural Resources. The township intends to erect observation towers and plank board walks for nature walkways and will preserve the area as a nature reserve.

***POSITIONS:***

The Department of Natural Resources supports the bill. (2-15-89)

The Township of Park supports the bill. (2-15-89)

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