

HOUSE BILL No. 4014

January 11, 1989, Introduced by Reps. Honigman, Harrison, Gire, Sikkema and Sparks and referred to the Committee on Conservation, Recreation and Environment.

A bill to provide for certain activities related to water resources management; to create certain committees; and to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state agencies and officials.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
2 "water resources management act".

3 Sec. 2. As used in this act:

4 (a) "Advisory committee" means the public water resources
5 advisory committee provided for in section 6.

6 (b) "Commission" means the commission of natural resources.

7 (c) "Critical watershed" means a watershed identified by the
8 department as having significant water resources problems or
9 opportunities and where comprehensive planning will provide a
10 basis for water resources management.

1 (d) "Department" means the department of natural resources.

2 (e) "Interdepartmental committee" means the interdepart-
3 mental water resources committee created in section 5.

4 (f) "Local unit of government" means a city, village, town-
5 ship, or county.

6 (g) "State water plan" means the document "Water Resources
7 for the Future: Michigan's Action Plan" prepared by the former
8 Great Lakes and water resources planning commission as required
9 by the Great Lakes conservation act, Act No. 133 of the Public
10 Acts of 1985, being sections 323.51 to 323.58 of the Michigan
11 Compiled Laws.

12 (h) "Water resources administrator" means the individual
13 designated under section 4 to administer the department's respon-
14 sibilities under this act.

15 Sec. 3. The department shall do all of the following:

16 (a) Identify, analyze, and prioritize water resources prob-
17 lems and development opportunities in the state.

18 (b) Implement a critical watershed planning and management
19 program which includes the development of policies and guide-
20 lines, securing of funds, and designation of critical
21 watersheds.

22 (c) Coordinate interagency and intergovernmental efforts to
23 address critical water resource issues, including, but not
24 limited to, groundwater management, nonpoint source pollution,
25 atmospheric deposition, and stormwater management.

26 (d) Aid in resolving policy and agency conflicts at the
27 state and local government levels.

1 (e) Administer state and federal planning funds and review
2 budgetary requests related to state water management programs.

3 (f) Provide technical assistance to support comprehensive
4 water management at the state and local levels.

5 (g) Coordinate public information and education activities
6 to facilitate public input into the water planning process.

7 (h) Evaluate and prioritize water data needs statewide, and
8 support the development of a water resources information network
9 to disseminate information to local units of government and the
10 general public about the state's water resources.

11 (i) Monitor progress in the planning process and advocate
12 steps needed to implement the recommendations in the state water
13 plan.

14 (j) Update the state water plan, after obtaining appropriate
15 public input, at least every 5 years. The first update shall be
16 completed by September 30, 1992. The department shall include in
17 all updates an assessment of the institutional structure of water
18 resources management at the state level.

19 Sec. 4. (1) The department shall designate an individual as
20 the water resources administrator who shall administer the
21 department's responsibilities under this act.

22 (2) Upon request, the department of agriculture, department
23 of attorney general, department of commerce, department of public
24 health, and the state transportation department shall assist the
25 department in implementing this act.

26 Sec. 5. (1) The interdepartmental water resources committee
27 is created within the department.

1 (2) The interdepartmental committee shall consist of the
2 director of the department, the attorney general, the director of
3 the department of agriculture, the director of commerce, the
4 director of public health, the director of the state transporta-
5 tion department, or their designated representatives, and the
6 water resources administrator.

7 (3) The water resources administrator shall be the chair-
8 person of the interdepartmental committee.

9 (4) The interdepartmental committee shall meet at least
10 quarterly at the call of the chairperson and shall advise the
11 department on issues relevant to water resources planning at the
12 state level.

13 Sec. 6. (1) The commission shall appoint a public water
14 resources advisory committee. The advisory committee shall
15 include at least 1 representative from each of the following:

- 16 (a) Regional planning agencies.
- 17 (b) Watershed councils.
- 18 (c) Soil conservation districts.
- 19 (d) The cooperative extension service.
- 20 (e) Drain commissioners.
- 21 (f) Local units of government.
- 22 (g) Public and private interest groups.
- 23 (h) Universities.
- 24 (i) State departments.
- 25 (j) Other individuals considered appropriate by the
26 commission.

1 (2) The advisory committee shall hold meetings at least
2 quarterly, and shall provide a public forum for the dissemination
3 of information, and for the involvement of the public in water
4 resources management in the state.

5 (3) The advisory committee shall advise the department and
6 the commission on matters related to water resources management
7 in the state, and shall annually prepare a report to the commis-
8 sion on the status of water resources planning in the state.

9 Sec. 7. A meeting held under this act shall be held in com-
10 pliance with the open meetings act, Act No. 267 of the Public
11 Acts of 1976, being sections 15.261 to 15.275 of the Michigan
12 Compiled Laws. Public notice of the time, date, and place of the
13 meeting shall be given in the manner required by that act.

14 Sec. 8. The commission may promulgate rules pursuant to the
15 administrative procedures act of 1969, Act No. 306 of the Public
16 Acts of 1969, being sections 24.201 to 24.328 of the Michigan
17 Compiled Laws, as are necessary to implement this act.