



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

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ADD U.P. TO STATE MOTTO

RECEIVED

House Bill 4105 as introduced  
First Analysis (5-6-87)

MAY 22 1987

Sponsor: Rep. Pat Gagliardi  
Committee: State Affairs

Mich. State Law Library

***THE APPARENT PROBLEM:***

Although Michigan is unique among the United States in consisting of two peninsulas, the state motto (*si quaeris peninsulam amoenam circumspice*) refers only to a single peninsula. Some people believe that the motto should be changed to reflect the fact that Michigan consists of two peninsulas, not one.

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

The state motto now is "*si quaeris peninsulam amoenam circumspice*" ("if you seek a pleasant peninsula, look around you"). The bill would change the motto to "*si quaeris peninsulas amoenas circumspice*" ("if you seek pleasant peninsulas, look around you").

MCL 2.21 and 2.22

***FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:***

According to the House Fiscal Agency, the bill would have no fiscal implications to the state. (5-5-87)

***ARGUMENTS:***

***For:***

Most school children are familiar with the famous Michigan "mitten", but all too often they (and others) forget that Michigan has an upper as well as a lower peninsula. Tourism is a major industry in Michigan, and changing the state motto to reflect the fact that Michigan consists of two beautiful peninsulas, not one, would be consistent with promoting the uniqueness of our two-peninsula state. In addition, such a change would accord the Upper Peninsula the recognition that it so richly deserves, but so often fails to receive, as a vital and beautiful part of the state.

***Response:*** Technically, unless one is standing on the shores of the Straits of Mackinac, one can only see one peninsula when looking about, so the state motto is appropriate regardless of which peninsula one observes. Also, although people from the Upper Peninsula often may be justified in their suspicions that their peninsula sometimes does not receive the recognition it deserves, even if the state motto does refer only to a single peninsula that peninsula might well be the Upper Peninsula rather than the Lower Peninsula.

***POSITIONS:***

No positions are available. (5-5-87)

H.B. 4105 (5-6-87)