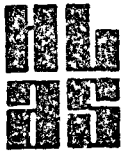


# REDUCING AND RECYCLING SOLID WASTE



## House Legislative Analysis Section

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House Bill 4174 (Substitute H-2)  
First Analysis (5-26-87)

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Sponsor: Rep. Jerry C. Bartnik  
Committee: Conservation & Environment

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### **THE APPARENT PROBLEM:**

Several groups, ranging from state departments and local units of government to private conservation agencies, are concerned about the handling of solid wastes in the state. One of the major concerns voiced is that many of the resources being used in the state are not expendable and should be reused whenever possible. Another major concern is that eventually landfills will not be available and the state should start developing alternatives to dumping and burning wastes. Legislation has been proposed address some of these concerns.

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

The bill would amend the Solid Waste Management Act to emphasize reducing and recycling of solid waste as part of solid waste management planning. It would do this by adding further conditions which must be met by solid waste management plans before the director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) could approve them.

Currently, county solid waste plans submitted to the director of the DNR must meet certain requirements, such as taking into account existing local solid waste management plans and those of neighboring counties. In addition, plans must comply with a set of requirements listed in section 30 of the Solid Waste Management Act, including evaluation of waste problems, selection of technically feasible options, inventory of existing facilities, and public involvement in the planning process. The bill would further specify that the director of the DNR could not approve a solid waste management plan unless it contained:

- 1) information about the feasibility of a recycling and composting program (including information on the kinds and volumes of materials in the waste stream that could be recycled or composted, an evaluation of factors affecting a recycling and composting program, identification of obstacles to such a program and how they might be overcome, how such a program could complement other processing or disposal methods, and identification of the various benefits of such a program);
- 2) provisions for recycling or composting the appropriate materials from the waste stream (or an explanation why this would be unnecessary or not feasible);
- 3) a plan detailing the major features of a recycling or composting program (or both), including the kinds and volumes of waste that would be recycled or composted, collection methods, measures (such as ordinances or cooperative arrangements) that would ensure collection, anticipated costs and on-going financing, public and private sector involvement, equipment and site selection, and operating parameters (such as pH and heat range). In addition, the bill would provide that the director of the Department of Natural Resources could establish rules needed to implement this section.

Further, the bill would update and clarify the definition of several terms: site separated material, source separated material, yard clippings, and solid wastes.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:**

According to the Department of Natural Resources, the bill would have minimal if any fiscal implications to the state. (5-21-87)

### **ARGUMENTS:**

#### **For:**

Eventually there will be no landfills available to receive wastes. The bill would give counties an added incentive to start preparing for this occurrence by developing alternatives to landfills. The bill would also help promote the idea of conservation by forcing counties to evaluate which wastes could be reused.

#### **For:**

The bill would make technical changes to the definitions of certain terms in order to bring them into agreement with other sections of the Solid Waste Management Act.

### **POSITIONS:**

A representative of the Michigan Association of Counties testified in support of the bill. (5-20-87)

A representative of the National Solid Waste Management Association testified in support of the bill. (5-20-87)

A representative of the Michigan Township Association testified in support of the bill. (5-20-87)

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