



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

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RIPARIAN FARMERS' RIGHT TO WATER

**RECEIVED**

SEP 13 1988

House Bill 5540

Sponsor: Rep. Lewis N. Dodak

Committee: Agriculture and Forestry

Mich. State Law Library

Complete to 8-30-88

**A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 5540 AS INTRODUCED 4-13-88**

The bill would enact the Michigan Farmers' Right to Water Act to assure riparian farmers the right to use a "reasonable amount" of water to meet their farming needs. The riparian farmers' rights to water use would be balanced with the rights of other riparian owners, and conflicts involving reasonable use of water would be resolved by the common law riparian doctrine. A riparian farmer's water usage would have to conform with generally accepted agricultural and management practices (as defined in administrative rules promulgated by the director of the Department of Agriculture).

House Bill 5540 (8-30-88)