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BILL ANALYSIS

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Senate Bill 169 (as enrolled) (Public Act 26 of 1987)**Sponsor: Senator Vern Ehlers****Senate Committee: Energy****House Committee: Appropriations****Date Completed: 3-17-88*****SUMMARY OF SENATE BILL 169 as enrolled:***

The bill proposes a new act, the "Michigan Superconducting Super Collider Act", to create a Commission to "take any action needed to support a proposal to build the superconducting super collider (SSC) in this state", and to represent the State before the U.S. Department of Energy. (Early in 1987 President Reagan announced that he would seek funding for construction of the SSC, a 10-foot tall, circular tunnel 52 miles in circumference, that is to be the world's largest atom smasher. It is estimated that the SSC will cost between \$4.4 and \$6 billion. Michigan is one of several states submitting a site proposal.) The following is a detailed description of the bill.

Commission Membership

The 20-member Commission would be created within the Department of Commerce and would consist of the following members:

- The Directors of the Departments of Commerce, Labor, Management and Budget, Transportation, and Natural Resources or their designees.
- The chairpersons of the physics departments at Michigan State University, the University of Michigan, and Wayne State University.
- One person appointed by the Governor, selected from a list of individuals provided by the Senate Majority Leader.
- One person appointed by the Governor, selected from a list of individuals provided by the Speaker of the House.
- Ten people appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, including: two representatives each of major utility companies, labor, business or industry, and environmental organizations; one local government official; and, one citizen who did not hold a position in State or local government.

Commission members would receive per diem compensation and reimbursement for expenses. Meetings or hearings of the Commission would be subject to the provisions of the Open Meetings Act.

Commission Powers and Duties

The Commission would be required to meet within 10 days after all the members had been appointed, and would meet thereafter as considered necessary by a chairperson elected by the members. The bill would require any State department or agency to assist the Commission, and provide staff and services, as required by the Commission. The chairperson of the Commission, in consultation with the Governor, could appoint individuals to advise the Commission. The Commission would be required to do all of the following:

- Act as an agent for the State in presenting SSC site proposals to, and in negotiations with, the U.S. Department of Energy.
- Represent the State before the public and to the legislative and executive branches of the Federal government.
- Develop and implement plans for the State to participate in the SSC project and to finance the project.
- Consult with State legislative leadership and Michigan's congressional delegation on matters concerning attracting the SSC to the State.
- Contract with the Michigan Energy and Resource Research Association to aid in the preparation of the State's proposal to secure the SSC project.
- Hold public meetings to inform the public regarding the State's proposal to attract the SSC project.
- Provide that adequate compensation was made by the State or Federal government, contractors or others to individuals and local governments for losses or damage due to the construction of the SSC project.
- Make all necessary efforts, in a cost-effective manner, to attract the SSC to the State, including research, preparation and submission of reports, and education of the public.

In performing its duties, the Commission could take any of the following actions:

- Exercise the power of eminent domain under the Uniform Condemnation Procedures Act.
- Acquire and dispose of real property, easements, and rights-of-way necessary for the construction, maintenance, and operation of the SSC.
- Lease, sell, or otherwise transfer property acquired under the bill to the U.S. Department of Energy.
- Contract for research and services, accept assistance from public and private agencies, colleges, and foundations, form committees and work groups, and hold public meetings.

Legislative Appropriation

The bill would require the Legislature to make an annual appropriation to the Commission sufficient to ensure the effective implementation of the bill's provisions.

Repeal

The bill would be repealed on July 1, 1989.

Legislative Analyst: G. Towne

This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

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