



Senate Fiscal Agency
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BILL ANALYSIS



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House Bill 5023 (as passed by the House)
Sponsor: Representative Peter Pettalia
House Committee: Tourism and Outdoor Recreation
Senate Committee: Outdoor Recreation and Tourism

Date Completed: 1-19-15

CONTENT

The bill would amend Part 751 (Dark Sky Preserve) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to designate the State-owned land encompassing Rockport State Recreation Area, Negwegon State Park, and Thompson's Harbor State Park as dark sky preserves.

Under Part 751, the Natural Resource Commission is required to ensure that outdoor lighting is not installed within an area designated as a dark sky preserve unless it is necessary for safety, security, or the reasonable use and enjoyment of property within the preserve. In addition, the Commission must ensure that outdoor lighting within a dark sky preserve does not unreasonably interfere with nighttime activities that require darkness, including the enjoyment of the night sky, nighttime photography, and wildlife photography. The following lands are designated as dark sky preserves: a) State-owned land at Lake Hudson in Lenawee County; b) State-owned land encompassing Wilderness State Park and the State forestland within Bliss Township, Cross Village Township, and Wawatam in Emmet County; and c) the portions of Port Crescent State Park lying north and west of the Pinnebog River in Hume Township, Huron County.

Under the bill, in addition to those already in existence, the following lands would be designated as dark sky preserves:

- The State-owned land encompassing Rockport State Recreation Area, in Presque Isle Township, Presque Isle County and Alpena Township, Alpena County.
- The State-owned land encompassing Negwegon State Park, in Sanborn Township, Alpena County and Alcona Township, Alcona County.
- The State-owned land encompassing Thompson's Harbor State Park, in Krakow Township, Presque Isle County.

The bill would take effect 90 days after enactment.

MCL 324.75102

Legislative Analyst: Jeff Mann

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Fiscal Analyst: Josh Sefton

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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.