

HOUSE BILL NO. 6405

September 22, 2022, Introduced by Reps. Hertel and Sabo and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation.

A bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled "Natural resources and environmental protection act," by amending sections 2502 and 2503 (MCL 324.2502 and 324.2503), as added by 1995 PA 60.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

- 1 Sec. 2502. As used in this part:
- 2 (a) "Coordinator" means the coordinator of environmental
- 3 education provided for in section 2503.
- 4 (b) "Department" means the department of environment, Great

1 **Lakes, and energy.**

2 (c) ~~(b)~~ "Environmental education" means ~~the teaching of both~~
3 **of the following:**

4 (i) **Teaching** factual information regarding the natural
5 environment, including basic sciences, ecological sciences,
6 agricultural sciences, and other relevant subject matter. ~~, and the~~

7 (ii) **The** interdisciplinary process of developing a citizenry
8 that is knowledgeable about the total environment and has the
9 capacity and the commitment to engage in inquiry, problem solving,
10 decision making, and action that will assure environmental quality.

11 Sec. 2503. The **director of the** department shall appoint a
12 coordinator of environmental education within the department. ~~of~~
13 ~~natural resources.~~ The coordinator's primary responsibilities ~~shall~~
14 ~~be to do~~ **are** the following:

15 (a) Coordinate the efforts of the department related to
16 environmental education.

17 (b) Work with the department of education and with local
18 education institutions, not-for-profit educational and
19 environmental organizations, broadcasting entities, and private
20 sector interests to support development of curricula, special
21 projects, and other activities to increase understanding of the
22 basic sciences and of natural resources and the environment.

23 (c) Provide technical assistance to school districts, schools,
24 and educators wishing to undertake projects including, but not
25 limited to, water quality, air quality monitoring, or habitat
26 protection.

27 (d) ~~If an environmental education advisory committee is~~
28 ~~established pursuant to section 2504, coordinate with the~~
29 ~~department in staffing the advisory committee.~~ **Work with entities**

1 described in subdivision (b) as well as the department of natural
2 resources, foresters, arborists, and naturalists to develop an
3 urban forestry program. The purpose of the urban forestry program
4 is to provide an opportunity for high school students to do all of
5 the following in collaboration with arborists, foresters,
6 naturalists, and other qualified professionals:

7 (i) Harvest urban trees whose removal is necessary.

8 (ii) Produce lumber from the trees.

9 (iii) Supply the lumber to the department of natural resources
10 or local units of government for use in the construction of
11 structures in parks.

12 (iv) Enhance and expand the urban forest.

13 (e) Provide assistance to the commission in implementing
14 statewide environmental education strategies developed by the
15 department and the department of education.

16 (f) Assist in identifying grants or other sources of funding
17 for innovative educators, ~~and~~ students of environmental education,
18 **and the urban forestry program under subdivision (d).**

19 (g) Recommend the appropriate mechanism for establishment of a
20 clearinghouse ~~of environmental education materials, which would to~~
21 make environmental education materials available to educators
22 throughout ~~the~~ **this** state.

23 (h) Provide or support existing training and professional
24 development programs for educators.

25 (i) Assist in the incorporation of environmental education
26 into curriculum objectives for the state's elementary and secondary
27 schools and develop appropriate assessment mechanisms.

28 ~~(j) Promote awareness of section 1171a of the school code of~~
29 ~~1976, Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1976, being section~~

1 ~~380.1171a of the Michigan Compiled Laws.~~