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BILL ANALYSIS

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Senate Bill 526 (as introduced 9-4-25)
Sponsor: Senator Jeremy Moss
Committee: Local Government

Date Completed: 6-15-26

CONTENT

The bill would amend Part 801 (Marine Safety) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to grant a political subdivision's request for a special rule on a body of water controlled by the political subdivision if the request concerned a lake without public access and was supported by 75% or more of the properties with riparian rights.[1]

Among other things, Part 801 allows the DNR to initiate an investigation into the need for a special rule for the use of vessels, water skis, water sleds, aquaplanes, surfboards or other similar contrivances on any of the waters of Michigan to ensure compatibility of uses and to protect public safety. The investigation must consider whether the activities subject to the proposed rule pose any issues to safety of life or property and specific conditions of the body of water concerned, such as depth, size, and location.

Under the same authority, Part 801 also allows a political subdivision of the State to adopt a resolution requesting that the DNR grant a special local ordinance as needed in the opinion of the political subdivision on waters subject to the political subdivision's jurisdiction. If the DNR receives such a resolution, the DNR must initiate an investigation. Instead, under the bill, if the DNR received such a resolution, if the request concerned a lake without public access, and the request were supported by a petition containing signatures from the owners representing 75% or more of the properties with riparian rights, the DNR would have to grant the request. If the DNR granted the request, the local political subdivision could adopt and enforce an ordinance as described in the request. If the specific circumstances proposed by the bill above did not apply, then the DNR would have to initiate an investigation as currently required under Part 801.

MCL 324.80110 & 324.80112

Legislative Analyst: Lauren J. Lahie

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would not have a direct fiscal impact on local government units. The bill could have a negative fiscal impact on local government units if a local government decided to adopt and enforce an ordinance on lakes without public access. The fiscal impact to the local government unit would be determined by its decision to adopt and enforce the ordinance.

Fiscal Analyst: Bobby Canell
Jonah Houtz

[1] Generally, riparian rights refer to the rights that come with the ownership of land on the bank or shore of an inland lake or stream.

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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.