

HOUSE BILL NO. 4822

August 27, 2025, Introduced by Reps. Fairbairn, Cavitt, Prestin, Markkanen, Rigas, Borton, Kunse, Bierlein, Johnsen, Slagh, Woolford, Roth, Schmaltz, Alexander, Maddock, Robinson, Wortz, Bohnak, Martin, Lightner, Greene, Kelly, DeBoyer, Outman and VanderWall and referred to Committee on Natural Resources and Tourism.

A bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled
"Natural resources and environmental protection act,"
by amending section 501 (MCL 324.501).

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

- 1 Sec. 501. (1) A department of natural resources for this state
2 is created. ~~which shall possess~~**The department has** the powers and
3 **shall** perform the duties granted and imposed by this act and as
4 otherwise provided by law.
5 (2) The commission of natural resources is created as the head

1 of the department of natural resources and may establish general
2 policies related to natural resources management and environmental
3 protection for the guidance of the director. In addition, the
4 commission has appellate authority as provided in section 1101. The
5 commission ~~shall be~~ **is** composed of 7 members, ~~not~~ **subject to the**
6 **following:**

7 (a) **No** more than 4 ~~of whom shall~~ **members may** be members of the
8 same political party. ~~, appointed by the~~

9 (b) **The** governor ~~by and~~ **shall appoint each member** with the
10 advice and consent of the senate.

11 (c) A member of the commission ~~shall~~ **must** be selected with
12 special reference to that ~~person's~~ **individual's** training and
13 experience related to at least 1 of the principal lines of
14 activities vested in the department of natural resources and the
15 ability and fitness of that ~~person~~ **individual** to deal with those
16 activities.

17 (d) The term of office of each member of the commission ~~shall~~
18 ~~be~~ **is** 4 years.

19 (e) The governor shall fill a vacancy occurring in the
20 membership of the commission and may remove a member of the
21 commission for cause after a hearing.

22 (f) Each member of the commission shall hold office until the
23 appointment and qualification of that member's successor.

24 (3) The commission, within 30 days after having qualified and
25 annually after that time, shall meet at its office in Lansing and
26 organize by appointing a secretary, who need not be a member of the
27 commission. The governor shall appoint a chairperson of the
28 commission from among its members, who shall serve as chairperson
29 at the pleasure of the governor. Four members of the commission

1 constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. ~~The~~ **Subject to**
 2 **this subsection, the** business ~~which~~ **that** the commission may perform
 3 ~~shall~~ **must** be conducted at a public meeting of the commission held
 4 in compliance with the open meetings act, ~~Act No. 267 of the Public~~
 5 ~~Acts of 1976, being sections 15.261 to 15.275 of the Michigan~~
 6 ~~Compiled Laws. Public 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 to 15.275. Subject to~~
 7 **this subsection, public** notice of the time, date, and place of the
 8 meeting ~~shall~~ **must** be given in the manner required by ~~Act No. 267~~
 9 ~~of the Public Acts of 1976. the open meetings act, 1976 PA 267, MCL~~
 10 **15.261 to 15.275.** A meeting may be called by the chairperson and
 11 ~~shall~~ **must** be called on request of a majority of the members of the
 12 commission. ~~A~~ **The commission may hold a** meeting ~~may be held as~~
 13 often as necessary and at other places than the commissioners'
 14 offices ~~at~~ **in** Lansing. The commission shall meet at least once each
 15 month. **The commission shall do all of the following:**

16 (a) Conduct a live video conference of all of its public
 17 meetings.

18 (b) Publish the link for viewing meetings not less than 24
 19 hours before the meeting on the commission's website.

20 (c) Make past meetings available for viewing on the
 21 commission's website.

22 (d) Maintain a publicly available archive of all past
 23 meetings, organized and searchable by date and subject matter.

24 (4) The commission shall appoint and employ a director who
 25 ~~shall continue in office~~ **serves** at the pleasure of the commission.
 26 The director shall appoint 1 or more deputy directors and other
 27 assistants and employees as are necessary to implement this part
 28 and any other law of this state affecting the powers and duties of
 29 the department of natural resources. A person to whom the director

1 has lawfully delegated decision making authority in writing may
 2 perform a duty or exercise a power conferred by law ~~upon~~**on** the
 3 department at the time and to the extent the duty and power is
 4 delegated to that person by the director. ~~When~~**If** a vacancy in the
 5 office of director occurs, or the director is unable to perform the
 6 director's duties or is absent from ~~the~~**this** state, the powers and
 7 duties of the director as prescribed by law ~~shall~~**must** be imposed
 8 ~~on and~~ transferred to a deputy director until the vacancy is filled
 9 or the director's inability or absence from ~~the~~**this** state ceases.

10 (5) The compensation of the deputy directors, the assistants,
 11 and the employees and the number of assistants and employees ~~shall~~
 12 ~~be~~**are** subject to the approval of the state administrative board.
 13 The members of the commission shall not receive compensation under
 14 this part, but each member and the other officers and employees of
 15 the department of natural resources ~~shall be~~**are** entitled to
 16 reasonable expenses while traveling in the performance of their
 17 duties prescribed by this act. The salaries and expenses authorized
 18 under this act ~~shall~~**must** be paid out of the state treasury in the
 19 same manner as the salaries of other state officers and employees
 20 are paid. The department of **technology**, management, and budget
 21 shall furnish suitable offices and office equipment, ~~at~~**in** Lansing,
 22 for the use of the department of natural resources. Each member of
 23 the commission and the director shall qualify by taking and
 24 subscribing to the ~~constitutional~~ oath of office **prescribed in**
 25 **section 1 of article XI of the state constitution of 1963** and by
 26 filing ~~it~~**the oath** in the office of the secretary of state.