

SENATE BILL NO. 505

August 14, 2025, Introduced by Senators SHINK, IRWIN, MCMORROW, CHANG, POLEHANKI, CAVANAGH, CAMILLERI and BAYER and referred to Committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture.

A bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled
"Natural resources and environmental protection act,"
(MCL 324.101 to 324.90106) by adding part 151.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

PART 151

STATEWIDE MICROPLASTICS RESEARCH AND MONITORING PLAN

Sec. 15101. (1) The department, in consultation with other
state departments and agencies and interested entities, shall
develop a statewide microplastics research and monitoring plan to

1 assess the occurrence of microplastics, including in plants and
2 animals, and the impact of microplastics on human and animal
3 health, the health of the Great Lakes, and the critical drinking
4 water supply and identify proposed solutions to address the impacts
5 of microplastic materials, to the extent feasible.

6 (2) The department may enter into 1 or more contracts with
7 research institutions in this state, including those associated
8 with Grand Valley State University, Michigan State University, the
9 University of Michigan, Wayne State University, and other academic
10 and research institutions that have demonstrated expertise relating
11 to the effects of microplastic materials on the Great Lakes, for
12 research services that will contribute directly to the development
13 of the statewide microplastics research and monitoring plan.

14 (3) The statewide microplastics research and monitoring plan
15 must include, but is not limited to, all the following:

16 (a) Strategies for developing a comprehensive plan to identify
17 and evaluate the ecological, health, and economic impacts
18 associated with microplastics in the Great Lakes.

19 (b) Methods for sampling, detecting, and characterizing
20 microplastics that are consistent with recognized standards from
21 scientific, peer-reviewed research or relevant agencies, including,
22 but not limited to, any of the following:

23 (i) The International Joint Commission.

24 (ii) The United States Environmental Protection Agency.

25 (iii) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

26 (iv) ASTM International.

27 (c) A list of the baseline concentrations of microplastics in
28 the Great Lakes that includes, but is not limited to, all the
29 following information:

1 (i) An assessment of the associated environmental and human
2 health impacts.

3 (ii) Solutions this state can immediately implement.

4 (iii) Factors that should be considered, such as microplastic
5 particle age, size, shape, type, and location.

6 (d) Research actions that are in alignment with best practices
7 and actions taken by other Great Lakes states and Canada.

8 (e) An investigation into the sources of microplastics and the
9 significance of pathways related to environmental and human health
10 impacts of microplastics.

11 (f) A list of long-term research objectives and strategies for
12 reducing microplastics in the Great Lakes, which must be updated
13 annually and made available to the public.

14 (g) An impact assessment framework for microplastics
15 consistent with best available science and research, and based on
16 the best available information on exposure of microplastics to
17 organisms, including humans, through pathways identified under
18 subdivision (e).

19 (h) Approaches to reduce the introduction of microplastics
20 into the Great Lakes from significant pathways and sources, with an
21 emphasis on the sizes, shapes, and types of microplastics that are
22 associated with significant environmental and human health impacts.

23 (i) Recommendations for both of the following:

24 (i) Policy changes, including statutory changes, or additional
25 research that may be needed.

26 (ii) Solutions to control microplastic introduction into the
27 Great Lakes, such as source elimination, pathway intervention, and
28 public education and outreach.

29 (j) A timeline to implement the statewide microplastics

1 research and monitoring plan and reduce the impacts of
2 microplastics on the Great Lakes.

3 (k) A list of potential barriers to implementation that
4 includes estimated costs and potential funding sources.

5 (4) To develop and implement the statewide microplastics
6 research and monitoring plan, the department may utilize existing
7 information and leverage ongoing federal efforts and efforts of
8 this state and other states, when possible.

9 (5) Not later than July 1, 2026, the department shall submit
10 the statewide microplastics research and monitoring plan to the
11 legislature. Not later than January 30, 2029, the department shall
12 submit a report to the legislature regarding the implementation of
13 the statewide microplastics research and monitoring plan.

14 (6) To the extent that funds are available from bonds and
15 other sources, including federal funds, not later than July 1,
16 2028, the department shall adopt and implement the statewide
17 microplastics research and monitoring plan.

18 (7) As used in this section:

19 (a) "Department" means the department of environment, Great
20 Lakes, and energy.

21 (b) "International Joint Commission" means a binational
22 organization established by the governments of the United States
23 and Canada under the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909, and whose
24 responsibilities were expanded under the Great Lakes Water Quality
25 Agreement of 1972.

26 (c) "Microplastics" means a solid plastic particle that has at
27 least 3 dimensions and measures less than 5 millimeters in size and
28 that may contain chemical additives or other substances.
29 Microplastics do not include naturally occurring, non-chemically

1 modified polymers.