

**SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 225**

A bill to create an agricultural tourism advisory commission;
to provide for its powers and duties; and to repeal acts and parts
of acts.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. As used in this act:

2 (a) "Agricultural tourism" means the practice of visiting an
3 agribusiness, horticultural, or agricultural operation, including,
4 but not limited to, a farm or winery or a companion animal or
5 livestock show, for the purpose of recreation, education, or active
6 involvement in the operation, other than as a contractor or
7 employee of the operation.

8 (b) "Commission" means the agricultural tourism zoning
9 advisory commission created in section 2.

1 (c) "Department" means the department of agriculture.

2 (d) "Director" means the director of the department.

3 Sec. 2. (1) The agricultural tourism zoning advisory
4 commission is created within the department.

5 (2) The commission shall consist of the following members
6 appointed by the director:

7 (a) Three individuals representing agricultural tourism
8 enterprises.

9 (b) Two individuals representing local government.

10 (c) One individual representing the travel Michigan division
11 of the Michigan economic development corporation.

12 (d) One individual representing the department.

13 (3) The members first appointed to the commission shall be
14 appointed within 60 days after the effective date of this act.

15 (4) Members of the commission shall serve for the life of the
16 commission.

17 (5) If a vacancy occurs on the commission, the director shall
18 make an appointment to fill the vacancy.

19 (6) A member of the commission may be removed by the director,
20 for incompetency, dereliction of duty, malfeasance, misfeasance, or
21 nonfeasance in office, or any other good cause.

22 Sec. 3. (1) The first meeting of the commission shall be
23 called by the director. At the first meeting, the commission shall
24 elect from among its members a chairperson and other officers as it
25 considers necessary or appropriate. After the first meeting, the
26 commission shall meet at least quarterly, or more frequently at the
27 call of the chairperson or if requested by 3 or more members.

1 (2) A majority of the members of the commission constitute a
2 quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of the
3 commission. A majority of the members present and serving are
4 required for official action of the commission.

5 (3) The business that the commission may perform shall be
6 conducted at a public meeting of the commission held in compliance
7 with the open meetings act, 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 to 15.275.

8 (4) A writing prepared, owned, used, in the possession of, or
9 retained by the commission in the performance of an official
10 function is subject to the freedom of information act, 1976 PA 442,
11 MCL 15.231 to 15.246.

12 (5) Members of the commission shall serve without
13 compensation. However, members of the commission may be reimbursed
14 for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance
15 of their official duties as members of the commission.

16 Sec. 4. The commission shall do all of the following:

17 (a) Not more than 1 year and 60 days after the effective date
18 of this act, submit to the governor and the committees of the
19 senate and house of representatives with primary responsibility for
20 agriculture issues, tourism issues, and local zoning issues a
21 report that includes all of the following:

22 (i) A discussion of the effects of local zoning on agricultural
23 tourism.

24 (ii) Model local zoning ordinance provisions to promote
25 agricultural tourism.

26 (iii) Recommendations concerning the use of logo signage to
27 promote agricultural tourism.

1 (iv) Recommendations for other measures to promote and remove
2 barriers to agricultural tourism.

3 (v) Other recommendations concerning agricultural tourism.

4 (b) Undertake studies for the purposes of the report required
5 under subdivision (a).

6 Sec. 5. This act is repealed effective 1 year and 90 days
7 after the effective date of this act.