

SENATE BILL No. 899

November 8, 2007, Introduced by Senators KUIPERS, RICHARDVILLE, PAPPAGEORGE, BIRKHOLZ, GILBERT, KAHN, BROWN, GLEASON, JANSEN, VAN WOERKOM and HARDIMAN and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs.

A bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled
"Natural resources and environmental protection act,"
by amending section 72105a (MCL 324.72105a), as added by 1997 PA
129.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 72105a. (1) The department shall establish an "adopt-a-
2 trail" program that will allow volunteer groups to assist in
3 maintaining and enhancing Michigan trailways and rail-trails.

4 (2) Subject to subsection (3), volunteer groups in the adopt-
5 a-trail program may adopt any available Michigan trailway or rail-
6 trail or Michigan trailway or rail-trail segment and may choose any
7 1 or more of the following volunteer activities:

8 (a) Spring cleanups.

1 (b) Environmental activities.

2 (c) Accessibility projects.

3 (d) Special events.

4 (e) Trailway maintenance and development.

5 (f) Public information and assistance.

6 (g) Training.

7 (3) The department shall designate the activities to be
8 performed by a volunteer group in the adopt-a-trail program. The
9 department may provide for more than 1 volunteer group to adopt a
10 Michigan trailway or rail-trail or Michigan trailway or rail-trail
11 segment.

12 (4) A volunteer group that wishes to participate in the adopt-
13 a-trail program shall submit an application to the department on a
14 form provided by the department. Additionally, **THE** volunteer groups
15 **GROUP** shall agree to **ALL OF** the following:

16 (a) ~~Volunteer groups shall~~**TO** participate in the program for
17 at least a 2-year period.

18 (b) ~~Volunteer groups shall~~**TO** consist of at least 6 people who
19 are 18 years of age or older, unless the volunteer group is a
20 school or scout organization, in which case the volunteers may be
21 under 18 years of age.

22 (c) ~~Volunteer groups shall~~**TO** contribute a total of at least
23 400 service hours over a 2-year period.

24 (d) ~~Volunteer groups shall~~**TO** comply with other reasonable
25 requirements of the department.

26 (5) A state park manager or a district forest manager may
27 issue **FREE CAMPING PERMITS** to volunteers who are actively working

1 on adopt-a-trail projects that last more than 1 day, ~~free camping~~
2 ~~permits~~ if campsites are available. A state park manager or a
3 district forest manager may waive state park entry fees for
4 volunteers entering state parks to work on adopt-a-trail projects.

5 (6) While a volunteer is working on an adopt-a-trail project,
6 the volunteer has the same immunity from civil liability as a
7 department employee and shall be treated in the same manner as an
8 employee under section 8 of 1964 PA 170, MCL 691.1408.

9 (7) The department shall design and erect **ALONG OR** near the
10 entrance of each Michigan trailway or rail-trail in the adopt-a-
11 trail program ~~or along the trailway~~ an adopt-a-trail program sign
12 with the name of the volunteer group's sponsoring organization
13 listed for each volunteer group that has contributed at least 100
14 service hours by volunteers.

15 (8) **THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE EACH VOLUNTEER GROUP**
16 **CONDUCTING CLEANUP ACTIVITY UNDER THIS SECTION WITH A METHOD FOR**
17 **THE VOLUNTEER GROUP TO RECORD THE TYPES AND AMOUNT OF TRASH**
18 **COLLECTED DURING THE GROUP'S CLEANUP ACTIVITY. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL**
19 **REQUEST THAT THE INFORMATION BE FORWARDED TO THE DEPARTMENT UPON**
20 **COMPLETION. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE INFORMATION IT RECEIVES**
21 **UNDER THIS SUBSECTION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY.**

22 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect
23 unless Senate Bill No. 901

24 of the 94th Legislature is enacted into law.