

# SENATE BILL No. 916

April 26, 2016, Introduced by Senator O'BRIEN and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

A bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled  
"Natural resources and environmental protection act,"  
by amending sections 2501 and 2502 (MCL 324.2501 and 324.2502), as  
added by 1995 PA 60, and by adding sections 2512 and 2513; and to  
repeal acts and parts of acts.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 2501. ~~The~~**A** purpose of this part is to facilitate an  
2 understanding by citizens of this state of the natural environment  
3 including an understanding of basic sciences, ecological sciences,  
4 and of the connection between human beings, air, land, water, and  
5 other living things, as well as how these systems relate to the  
6 global environment, thus making it possible for human beings to  
7 make informed decisions regarding protection and conservation of  
8 the environment and utilization of the natural resources in a wise  
9 and prudent fashion.

1           Sec. 2502. As used in this part:

2           (a) "Coordinator" means the coordinator of environmental  
3 education provided for in section 2503.

4           (b) "Environmental education" means the teaching of factual  
5 information regarding the natural environment, including basic  
6 sciences, ecological sciences, agricultural sciences, and other  
7 relevant subject matter, and the interdisciplinary process of  
8 developing a citizenry that is knowledgeable about the total  
9 environment and has the capacity and the commitment to engage in  
10 inquiry, problem solving, decision making, and action that will  
11 ~~assure~~ **ENSURE** environmental quality.

12           **(C) "ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY" MEANS CREATING AND**  
13 **MAINTAINING THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH HUMANS AND NATURE CAN EXIST**  
14 **IN PRODUCTIVE HARMONY TO SUPPORT PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.**

15           **SEC. 2512. (1) THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY SHALL**  
16 **ANNUALLY RECOGNIZE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AS GREEN**  
17 **COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES FOR SETTING AND ACHIEVING GOALS FOR**  
18 **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY. TO OBTAIN RECOGNITION, AN INSTITUTION**  
19 **SHALL FILE AN APPLICATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT ON A FORM PROVIDED BY**  
20 **THE DEPARTMENT.**

21           **(2) THE RECOGNITION PROGRAM SHALL RANK GREEN COLLEGES AND**  
22 **UNIVERSITIES IN GOLD, SILVER, AND BRONZE CATEGORIES BASED ON A**  
23 **POINT SYSTEM. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE APPROPRIATE INCENTIVES**  
24 **AND BENEFITS FOR ATTAINING EACH CATEGORY. THE RECOGNITION PROGRAM**  
25 **MAY CLASSIFY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION BASED ON THE FUNDING**  
26 **LEVEL, SIZE, AND TYPE OF INSTITUTION, SUCH AS COMMUNITY COLLEGE,**  
27 **TECHNICAL COLLEGE, PUBLIC UNIVERSITY, OR PRIVATE UNIVERSITY.**

1           (3) THE RECOGNITION PROGRAM SHALL CONSIDER ALL OF THE  
2 FOLLOWING CRITERIA OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AS THEY RELATE  
3 TO ALL OPERATIONS AND DISCIPLINES OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER  
4 EDUCATION:

5           (A) AIR: PROGRAMS TO MITIGATE THE INSTITUTION'S GREENHOUSE GAS  
6 EMISSIONS, MAKE INFORMATION ABOUT THOSE EMISSIONS PUBLICLY  
7 AVAILABLE, AND MONITOR OUTDOOR AIR QUALITY.

8           (B) ENERGY: PROGRAMS FOR ENERGY CONSERVATION AND ENERGY  
9 EFFICIENCY AND THE PERCENTAGE OF THE INSTITUTION'S ENERGY  
10 CONSUMPTION DERIVED FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES.

11           (C) TRANSPORTATION: PROGRAMS THAT OFFER MASS TRANSIT, BICYCLE  
12 SHARING, FACILITIES FOR BICYCLISTS, BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN  
13 PLANNING, CAR SHARING, CARPOOL DISCOUNTS, CARPOOL AND VANPOOL  
14 MATCHING, LOCAL HOUSING, TELECOMMUTING, AND CONDENSED WORKWEEKS AND  
15 THAT PROHIBIT UNNECESSARY IDLING OF MOTOR VEHICLES.

16           (D) BUILDINGS: WHETHER THE INSTITUTION'S BUILDINGS THAT WERE  
17 CONSTRUCTED OR UNDERWENT MAJOR RENOVATIONS IN THE PAST 3 YEARS ARE  
18 CERTIFIED BY THE LEADERSHIP IN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN  
19 (LEED) GREEN BUILDING RATING SYSTEM DEVELOPED BY THE UNITED STATES  
20 GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL.

21           (E) FOOD: THE PERCENTAGE OF THE INSTITUTION'S FOOD BUDGET  
22 SPENT ON LOCAL, ORGANIC, OR OTHER ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE FOOD.

23           (F) WATER: WATER USE MINIMIZATION AND RAINWATER MANAGEMENT  
24 PROGRAMS.

25           (G) WASTE: WASTE DIVERSION OR MINIMIZATION PROGRAMS AND THE  
26 PERCENTAGE OF WASTE DIVERTED.

27           (H) SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES: WHETHER THE INSTITUTION OFFERS A

1 DEGREE FOCUSED ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND WHETHER STUDENTS  
2 ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE A COURSE RELATED TO ENVIRONMENTAL  
3 SUSTAINABILITY.

4 (I) SUSTAINABILITY OUTREACH: A PROGRAM THAT PROMOTES  
5 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY TO STAFF, STUDENTS, AND THE GENERAL  
6 PUBLIC.

7 (J) SUSTAINABILITY PERSONNEL: WHETHER THE INSTITUTION HAS A  
8 FORMAL COMMITTEE OR FULL-TIME OFFICER DEVOTED TO ADVANCING THE  
9 INSTITUTION'S ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY.

10 (K) RESEARCH: PROGRAMS FOR RESEARCH AND IN THE AREAS OF  
11 INVASIVE SPECIES, GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY, RECYCLING, AND  
12 DRINKING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE.

13 (L) FIELDWORK: INTERNSHIPS AND OTHER PROGRAMS FOR FIELDWORK IN  
14 AREAS LISTED IN SUBDIVISIONS (A) TO (K).

15 (4) FOR LONG-TERM ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES, THE  
16 RECOGNITION PROGRAM SHALL REQUIRE AND RECOGNIZE THE SETTING AND  
17 ACHIEVEMENT OF INTERIM GOALS.

18 SEC. 2513. (1) THE GREEN COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ADVISORY  
19 COUNCIL IS CREATED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY.

20 (2) THE COUNCIL SHALL CONSIST OF 1 FACULTY MEMBER AND 1  
21 STUDENT FROM EACH INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION LOCATED IN THIS  
22 STATE THAT CHOOSES TO PARTICIPATE. WITHIN 45 DAYS AFTER THE  
23 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION, THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
24 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY SHALL APPOINT THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
25 NOMINATIONS MADE BY EACH PARTICIPATING INSTITUTION. THE NOMINATIONS  
26 SHALL BE MADE WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS  
27 SECTION. MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL SHALL SERVE FOR THE LIFE OF THE

1 COUNCIL.

2 (3) IF A VACANCY OCCURS ON THE COUNCIL, THE DIRECTOR OF THE  
3 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY SHALL MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO  
4 FILL THE VACANCY IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE ORIGINAL APPOINTMENT.

5 (4) THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
6 MAY REMOVE A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL FOR INCOMPETENCE, DERELICTION OF  
7 DUTY, MALFEASANCE, MISFEASANCE, OR NONFEASANCE IN OFFICE, OR ANY  
8 OTHER GOOD CAUSE.

9 (5) THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL SHALL BE CALLED BY  
10 DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY. AT THE FIRST  
11 MEETING, THE COUNCIL SHALL ELECT FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS A  
12 CHAIRPERSON AND OTHER OFFICERS AS IT CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE. AFTER  
13 THE FIRST MEETING, THE COUNCIL SHALL MEET AT LEAST QUARTERLY, OR  
14 MORE FREQUENTLY AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIRPERSON OR IF REQUESTED BY 5  
15 OR MORE MEMBERS.

16 (6) A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL CONSTITUTE A  
17 QUORUM FOR THE TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS AT A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.  
18 A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT AND SERVING ARE REQUIRED FOR  
19 OFFICIAL ACTION OF THE COUNCIL.

20 (7) THE COUNCIL SHALL CONDUCT BUSINESS AT A PUBLIC MEETING OF  
21 THE COUNCIL HELD IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT, 1976 PA  
22 267, MCL 15.261 TO 15.275. A WRITING PREPARED, OWNED, USED, IN THE  
23 POSSESSION OF, OR RETAINED BY THE COUNCIL IN THE PERFORMANCE OF AN  
24 OFFICIAL FUNCTION IS SUBJECT TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT,  
25 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231 TO 15.246.

26 (8) MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL SHALL SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION.  
27 HOWEVER, MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL MAY BE REIMBURSED FOR THEIR ACTUAL

1 AND NECESSARY EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR  
2 OFFICIAL DUTIES AS MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

3 (9) THE COUNCIL SHALL ADVISE AND ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT OF  
4 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY IN DEVELOPING THE GREEN COLLEGES AND  
5 UNIVERSITIES RECOGNITION PROGRAM UNDER SECTION 2512.

6 (10) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED EFFECTIVE 2 YEARS AFTER THE  
7 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION.

8 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 90 days  
9 after the date it is enacted into law.