



**Senate Fiscal Agency**  
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**BILL ANALYSIS**

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House Bill 5198 (as reported without amendment)  
Sponsor: Representative Sue Allor  
House Committee: Natural Resources  
Senate Committee: Natural Resources

**CONTENT**

The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to provide assistance to and accept assistance from other states, the Federal government, and Canada in all hazard incidents.

The Act permits DNR to enter into agreements with other states and the Federal government to provide assistance and to accept assistance in the control of forest fires, including the training of personnel. Any employee of the DNR assigned to fire control duties or training programs outside Michigan must be considered the same as working inside the State for purposes of compensation and any other employee benefits.

Under the bill, the DNR could enter into agreements with other states, territories of the U.S., the Federal government, Canada, or provinces of Canada to provide assistance and to accept assistance in the control of forest fires and all hazard incidents, including the training of personnel.

"All hazard incident" would mean an incident, whether natural or human-caused, that requires an organized response by a public, private, or governmental entity to protect life, public health or safety, or other values or to minimize any disruption of governmental, social, or economic services. One or more kinds of incident, such as fire, flood, mass casualty, search, rescue, or evacuation, could occur simultaneously as part of an all hazard incident.

MCL 324.51501 & 324.51514

Legislative Analyst: Nathan Leaman

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The bill would have a likely neutral fiscal impact on the DNR, and no fiscal impact on local units of government. The language of the bill is permissive so on its own the bill would result in no fiscal impact on the DNR. Assuming that the DNR entered into these agreements, the fiscal impact would be indeterminate. Typically, when the DNR enters into agreements with other states to assist with responding to forest fires, as current law permits, the agreements contain a provision that allows the DNR to recoup its costs stemming from those response activities. Assuming that similar agreements made for all hazard incidents under the bill would contain similar cost-recovery provisions, the fiscal impact of the bill would be neutral.

Date Completed: 2-22-18

Fiscal Analyst: Josh Sefton