



Senate Fiscal Agency
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Senate Bill 1124 (Substitute S-1 as reported)
Sponsor: Senator Sue Shink
Committee: Natural Resources and Agriculture

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to coordinate State efforts and work toward voluntary conservation, restoration, and connection of six regional plans to create a legacy plan that conserved 30% of the State's total land area of land and water by 2030, which could not include the Great Lakes or Lake St. Clair. Generally, the plan could only be implemented if approved by the Senate and House Committees with primary responsibility of conservation issues, and the DNR would have to consider in the plan's development public input, expert opinions, and the plan's contribution to the environment and access to outdoor recreation.

MCL 324.503 et al.

BRIEF RATIONALE

The Michigan the Beautiful Plan under the DNR aims to conserve and restore at least 30% of the State's lands and waters by 2030.¹ According to testimony before the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture, equitable access to conserved land is valuable for the State's residents, and natural areas are important for recreation and the State's tourism industry. Some believe that to support the plan, the DNR needs legislative direction and funding, and so it has been suggested to provide such standards.

Legislative Analyst: Eleni Lionas

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have an indeterminate negative fiscal impact on the DNR. Initial impacts would include administrative costs of developing and updating the legacy plan as outlined within the bill. Additional, likely significant costs would be incurred while implementing the aforementioned legacy plan in an effort to conserve 30% of the State's land and water by 2030. Currently, approximately 24% of the State's land area is protected and 19% of its water is protected.

Date Completed: 12-18-24

Fiscal Analyst: Jonah Houtz

¹ "Michigan the Beautiful", DNR <https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/mtb>. Retrieved 12-18-24.