

**HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 662**

A bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled  
"Natural resources and environmental protection act,"  
by amending sections 30701, 30711, 30716, and 30717 (MCL 324.30701,  
324.30711, 324.30716, and 324.30717), sections 30701 and 30711 as  
added by 1995 PA 59, section 30716 as amended by 2002 PA 216, and  
section 30717 as amended by 2002 PA 217.

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

1           Sec. 30701. As used in this part:  
2           (a) "Commissioner" means the county drain commissioner, or the  
3 **board of** county road ~~commission~~ **commissioners** in counties not  
4 having a drain commissioner. ~~and, However,~~ if more than 1 county  
5 is involved, ~~each of commissioner means~~ the drain ~~commissioners or~~  
6 ~~drain commissioner and road commission in counties having no drain~~



1 commissioner **or board of county road commissioners, as applicable,**  
 2 **for each county.**

3 (b) "County board" means the county board of commissioners. ~~7~~  
 4 ~~and-However,~~ if more than 1 county is involved, ~~the boards-county~~  
 5 **board means the county board** of commissioners of each of those  
 6 counties.

7 (c) "Court" means a circuit court. ~~7-and-However,~~ if more than  
 8 1 judicial circuit is involved, **court means** the circuit court  
 9 designated by the county board or otherwise authorized by law to  
 10 preside over an action.

11 (d) "Dam" means an artificial barrier, structure, or facility,  
 12 and appurtenant works, used to regulate or maintain the level of an  
 13 inland lake.

14 (e) "Delegated authority" means the county drain commissioner  
 15 or any other person designated by the county board to perform  
 16 duties required under this part.

17 (f) "Department" means the department of environment, Great  
 18 Lakes, and energy.

19 (g) ~~(f)~~—"Inland lake" means a natural or artificial lake,  
 20 pond, impoundment, or a part of 1 of those bodies of water. Inland  
 21 lake does not include the Great Lakes or Lake St. Clair.

22 (h) ~~(g)~~—"Interested person" means the department and a person  
 23 who has a record interest in the title to, **a** right of ingress to,  
 24 or **a** reversionary right to land that would be affected by a  
 25 permanent change in the natural or normal level of an inland lake.

26 (i) ~~(h)~~—"Normal level" means the **target** level or levels of the  
 27 water of an inland lake, **around which actual levels may fluctuate,**  
 28 that provide the most benefit to the public; that best protect the  
 29 public health, safety, and welfare; that best preserve the natural



1 resources of ~~the~~**this** state; and that best preserve and protect the  
 2 value of property around the **inland** lake. A normal level shall be  
 3 measured and described as an elevation **or elevations** based on  
 4 ~~national~~**a** geodetic vertical datum **including ranges based on**  
 5 **tolerance, operational or weather conditions, seasonality, or other**  
 6 **similar natural and regional considerations. An inland lake shall**  
 7 **be considered to be maintained at its normal level during temporary**  
 8 **water level fluctuations resulting from weather or natural events,**  
 9 **during construction activities authorized by the department, or if**  
 10 **a county or its delegated authority operates lake level**  
 11 **infrastructure in a manner that may affect water levels but is**  
 12 **reasonably intended to maintain a normal level. The application of**  
 13 **this definition includes, but is not limited to, all normal levels**  
 14 **established before the effective date of the amendatory act of the**  
 15 **2023-2024 legislative session that amended this section.**

16 (j) "Normal level project" means a project to establish or  
 17 maintain a normal level.

18 Sec. 30711. (1) The county board may determine by resolution  
 19 that the whole or a part of the cost of a project to establish and  
 20 maintain a normal level for an inland lake shall be defrayed by  
 21 special assessments against the following that are benefited by the  
 22 project: privately owned parcels of land, political subdivisions of  
 23 ~~the~~**this** state, and state owned lands under the jurisdiction and  
 24 control of the department **of natural resources**. If the county board  
 25 determines that a special assessment district is to be established,  
 26 the delegated authority shall compute the cost of the project and  
 27 prepare a special assessment roll.

28 (2) If the revenues raised pursuant to the special assessment  
 29 are insufficient to meet the computation of cost ~~included in~~**under**



1 section 30712, or if these revenues are insufficient to meet bond  
 2 obligations, the special assessment district may be reassessed  
 3 without hearing using the same apportioned percentage used for the  
 4 original assessment.

5 Sec. 30716. **(1)** With approval of the county board ~~and subject~~  
 6 ~~to the revised municipal finance act, 2001 PA 34, MCL 141.2101 to~~  
 7 ~~141.2821, and pursuant to section 30705,~~ the district may issue  
 8 bonds or notes that ~~shall be~~ **are** payable by special assessments  
 9 under this part. **Except as provided in subsection (2) and section**  
 10 **30717(3), the issuance of the bonds and notes is subject to the**  
 11 **revised municipal finance act, 2001 PA 34, MCL 141.2101 to**  
 12 **141.2821.** Bonds or notes shall not be issued exceeding the cost of  
 13 the lake level project that is being financed.

14 **(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this part, bonds,**  
 15 **notes, and other obligations issued under this part are exempt from**  
 16 **section 505 of the revised municipal finance act, 2001 PA 34, MCL**  
 17 **141.2505.**

18 Sec. 30717. **(1)** ~~The delegated authority may accept the advance~~  
 19 ~~of work, material, or money in connection with a normal level~~  
 20 ~~project. The obligation to repay an advance out of special~~  
 21 ~~assessments under this part may be evidenced by a note or contract.~~  
 22 ~~Notes and contracts issued under this section are subject to the~~  
 23 ~~revised municipal finance act, 2001 PA 34, MCL 141.2101 to~~  
 24 ~~141.2821.~~ **A special assessment district under this part may borrow**  
 25 **money or accept an advance of work, material, or money from a**  
 26 **public or private corporation, a partnership, an association, an**  
 27 **individual, or the federal government or any agency of the federal**  
 28 **government for payment of financing of any costs in connection with**  
 29 **a normal level project, including all of the following:**



1 (a) Costs of easement and land acquisition.

2 (b) Engineering fees.

3 (c) Financing costs.

4 (d) Legal fees.

5 (e) Costs of a preliminary, feasibility, practicability,  
6 environmental assessment, or impact study.

7 (f) Any other permissible costs under this part.

8 (2) The special assessment district shall pay or provide  
9 reimbursement for the obligations under subsection (1), with or  
10 without interest as may be agreed, when funds are available. The  
11 obligation of the special assessment district under this subsection  
12 may be evidenced by a contract or note. The contract or note may  
13 pledge the full faith and credit of the special assessment district  
14 and may be made payable out of any of the following:

15 (a) Assessments made or to be made against public corporations  
16 at large or against lands in the special assessment district.

17 (b) The proceeds of lake level orders, notes, or bonds issued  
18 by the special assessment district pursuant to this act.

19 (c) Any other available funds.

20 (3) A contract or note described in subsection (2) is not  
21 subject to the revised municipal finance act, 2001 PA 34, MCL  
22 141.2101 to 141.2821, unless the principal amount of the obligation  
23 is more than \$600,000.00. However, if the principal amount of the  
24 obligation is \$600,000.00 or less, the contract or note is subject  
25 to the agency financing reporting act, 2002 PA 470, MCL 129.171 to  
26 129.177. Projects in which advances or loans are made by any public  
27 corporation, the federal government, or any agency of the federal  
28 government are not subject to either the revised municipal finance  
29 act, 2001 PA 34, MCL 141.2101 to 141.2821, or the agency financing



1 reporting act, 2002 PA 470, MCL 129.171 to 129.177.

2 (4) The county board of commissioners by a majority vote of  
3 its members may pledge the full faith and credit of the county for  
4 the payment of a contract or note of the special assessment  
5 district.

6 (5) All notes previously issued under this section shall be  
7 considered to have been validly issued.

