

**SUBSTITUTE FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 6377**

A bill to amend 1956 PA 40, entitled  
"The drain code of 1956,"  
by amending sections 101, 102, 103, 191, and 192 (MCL 280.101,  
280.102, 280.103, 280.191, and 280.192), section 101 as amended by  
2014 PA 551.

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

1       Sec. 101. (1) Before any action is taken on a petition to  
2       locate, establish, and construct a drain that will traverse lands  
3       in more than 1 county, or affect more than 1 county, an application  
4       ~~shall~~ **MUST** be filed with a commissioner having jurisdiction of any  
5       of the lands to lay out and designate a drainage district. The  
6       application shall tentatively describe the location and route of  
7       the proposed drain. Except as provided in subsection (2), the  
8       application shall be signed by ~~a number of freeholders in the~~

~~drainage district whose lands would be liable to an assessment for~~  
~~benefits, equal to 50% of any of the freeholders whose lands would~~  
~~be traversed by the drain or drains applied for or that abut on any~~  
~~highway or street along the side of which the drain extends,~~  
~~between a point where the drain enters the highway and the point~~  
~~where it leaves the highway and which lands are within the drainage~~  
~~district.~~ **NOT FEWER THAN 10 FREEHOLDERS OF THE CITIES, VILLAGES, OR**  
**TOWNSHIPS IN WHICH THE PROPOSED DRAIN OR THE LANDS PROPOSED TO BE**  
**DRAINED ARE LOCATED. FIVE OR MORE OF THE SIGNERS SHALL BE THE**  
**OWNERS OF LAND THAT WILL BE LIABLE FOR AN ASSESSMENT FOR THE**  
**CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROPOSED DRAIN. HOWEVER, IF IT APPEARS TO THE**  
**DRAIN COMMISSIONER TO WHOM THE APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED THAT THE**  
**DISTRICT MAY NOT INCLUDE 20 FREEHOLDERS WHOSE LANDS WILL BE LIABLE**  
**FOR AN ASSESSMENT, THE APPLICATION SHALL BE RECEIVED IF AT LEAST 1**  
**OF THE SIGNERS IS A FREEHOLDER WHOSE LAND WILL BE LIABLE FOR AN**  
**ASSESSMENT.** The eligibility of the signers to the application shall  
be determined by their interest of record in the office of the  
register of deeds, in the probate court, or in the circuit court of  
the county in which the lands are ~~situated~~ **LOCATED** at the time the  
petition is filed.

(2) An application under subsection (1) ~~may~~ **NEED ONLY** be  
signed by a representative of ~~the~~ **A** city, village, or township ~~if~~  
**WHO IS** authorized by its governing body, if ~~the~~ **BOTH OF THE**  
**FOLLOWING APPLY:**

**(A) THE** proposed drain is necessary for the public health of  
~~the city, village, or township, and if the city, village, or~~  
~~township~~ **CITY, VILLAGE, OR TOWNSHIP.**

1           **(B) THE CITY, VILLAGE, OR TOWNSHIP** will be liable for an  
 2 assessment at large ~~against it~~ for a percentage of the cost of the  
 3 proposed drain.

4           Sec. 102. ~~(1) Upon filing of such~~ **WITHIN 20 DAYS AFTER AN**  
 5 application **IS FILED UNDER SECTION 101**, the commissioner shall  
 6 ~~within 20 days~~ send a copy of ~~such~~ **THE** application by registered  
 7 **CERTIFIED** mail to the ~~state~~ director of **THE DEPARTMENT OF**  
 8 agriculture **AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT** and ~~also to the drain~~  
 9 commissioner of each county in which ~~lie lands liable for~~  
 10 ~~assessment for benefits for the construction of such proposed~~ **THAT**  
 11 **WILL BENEFIT FROM THE** drain **ARE LOCATED**. The drain commissioners of  
 12 ~~such~~ **THE** counties and the director of **THE DEPARTMENT OF** agriculture  
 13 **AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT** or any deputy designated by ~~him shall be and~~  
 14 **THE DIRECTOR** constitute the drainage board.

15           **(2)** The ~~state~~ director of **THE DEPARTMENT OF** agriculture **AND**  
 16 **RURAL DEVELOPMENT** shall call a meeting of ~~such~~ **THE** drainage board.  
 17 ~~, which~~ **THE** meeting shall be held not less than 15 and not more  
 18 than 60 days ~~from~~ **AFTER** the **DIRECTOR'S** receipt of ~~such notice. Such~~  
 19 **THE APPLICATION UNDER SUBSECTION (1). THE** meeting shall be held in  
 20 the immediate locality of the proposed drainage district. ~~Notices~~  
 21 ~~of such~~ **A NOTICE OF THE** meeting shall be ~~posted in 5 public places~~  
 22 ~~within the proposed drainage district within each county, and~~  
 23 served **BY THE RESPECTIVE DRAIN COMMISSIONER** on the county clerk of  
 24 each county and the **MAYOR OF EACH CITY, PRESIDENT OF EACH VILLAGE,**  
 25 **AND** supervisor of each township within the proposed drainage  
 26 district personally or by ~~registered~~ **CERTIFIED** mail at least 10  
 27 days before ~~such~~ **THE** public meeting. A notice of ~~such~~ **THE** meeting

shall be published in each county ~~affected~~ **IN WHICH LANDS LIABLE FOR ASSESSMENTS FOR THE DRAIN ARE LOCATED** once a week for 2 consecutive weeks before ~~such~~ **THE** meeting in a newspaper of general circulation in ~~such~~ **THE** county, if there is one, ~~the~~ **SUCH A NEWSPAPER. THE** first publication ~~to~~ **SHALL** be at least 10 days before the meeting.

Sec. 103. (1) ~~Upon convening said meeting the state~~ **THE** director of **THE DEPARTMENT OF** agriculture **AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT** or ~~any~~ **A** deputy selected by him ~~THE DIRECTOR~~ shall act as ~~chairman.~~ **CHAIRPERSON AT THE MEETING OF THE DRAINAGE BOARD UNDER SECTION 102.** The ~~said~~ drainage board shall consider ~~such~~ **THE APPLICATION TO LAY OUT AND DESIGNATE A DRAINAGE DISTRICT AND DO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING AT THE MEETING: application, and determine**

(A) **DETERMINE** the sufficiency of the signatures ~~thereto, and shall go over~~ **ON THE APPLICATION. IF THE SIGNATURES ARE INSUFFICIENT, NO FURTHER ACTION SHALL BE TAKEN ON THAT APPLICATION.**

(B) **CONSIDER** the route **AND TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION** of ~~said~~ **THE** proposed drain. ~~and take~~

(C) **TAKE** testimony to determine ~~its~~ **THE** practicability ~~—All persons owning~~ **OF THE PROPOSED DRAIN.**

(2) **IF A MEMBER OF THE DRAINAGE BOARD WOULD BE DISQUALIFIED UNDER SECTIONS 381 AND 383 FROM MAKING AN APPORTIONMENT OF BENEFITS, BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY:**

(A) **THE DRAINAGE BOARD MEMBER IS DISQUALIFIED FROM PARTICIPATION IN THE DETERMINATION OF PRACTICABILITY.**

(B) **A SPECIAL COMMISSIONER SHALL BE APPOINTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 381 TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE DRAINAGE BOARD TO DETERMINE**

1 **PRACTICABILITY.**

2 (3) **THE OWNER OF ANY** lands **THAT WOULD BE** liable to assessment  
 3 for benefits **FOR THE PROPOSED DRAIN** or ~~whose lands shall~~ **WOULD** be  
 4 crossed by ~~said~~ **THE** drain or any municipality affected may appear  
 5 for or against ~~said~~ **THE** drain proceedings. If at ~~said~~ **THE** meeting  
 6 or at any subsequent time before the entry of the order designating  
 7 a drainage district, ~~they shall determine~~ **THE DRAINAGE BOARD**  
 8 **DETERMINES** that the drainage of the proposed drain area is not  
 9 ~~practical,~~ **PRACTICABLE**, no further action shall be taken ~~thereon~~ **ON**  
 10 **THAT APPLICATION** within 1 year. If ~~said~~ **THE** proposed drain is  
 11 determined to be ~~practical,~~ **PRACTICABLE**, then the drainage board  
 12 shall cause a survey ~~thereof~~ to be made by a ~~competent~~ **LICENSED**  
 13 **PROFESSIONAL** surveyor or engineer to ascertain the area ~~which~~ **THAT**  
 14 would be ~~drained~~ **BENEFITED** by the proposed drain, and the route  
 15 and type of construction of drain or drains most serviceable for  
 16 that purpose.

17 Sec. 191. (1) ~~When~~ **IF** a drain or portion ~~thereof,~~ ~~which~~ **OF A**  
 18 **DRAIN** traverses lands wholly in 1 county, ~~and~~ **IF** lands only in 1  
 19 county ~~which is~~ **ARE** subject to assessment, **AND IF THE DRAIN** needs  
 20 cleaning out, relocating, widening, deepening, straightening,  
 21 tiling, extending, or relocating along a highway, ~~or~~ requires  
 22 structures or mechanical devices that will properly purify or  
 23 improve the flow of the drain or pumping equipment necessary to  
 24 assist or relieve the flow of the drain, ~~or~~ needs supplementing by  
 25 the construction of 1 or more relief drains, which may consist of  
 26 new drains or extensions, enlargements, or connections to existing  
 27 drains, or needs 1 or more branches added ~~thereto,~~ **TO THE DRAIN,**

any 5 **FREEHOLDERS** or at least 50% of the freeholders if there are  
 2 ~~less~~ **FEWER** than 5 freeholders whose lands shall be liable to an  
 3 assessment for benefits of ~~such~~ **THE** work, may make petition in  
 4 writing to the commissioner setting forth the necessity of the  
 5 proposed work. ~~and~~ **UPON FILING OF THE PETITION**, the commissioner  
 6 shall proceed in the same manner provided **IN THIS ACT** for the  
 7 location, establishment, and construction of a drain. ~~If the~~  
 8 ~~project includes a tiled relief drain, or the tiling of an existing~~  
 9 ~~open drain or any portion thereof, with a conduit a part of which~~  
 10 ~~has an inside diameter in excess of 36 inches or the retiling of an~~  
 11 ~~existing drain with a conduit, a part of which has an inside~~  
 12 ~~diameter in excess of 36 inches, then the petition shall comply~~  
 13 ~~with section 71. The preceding sentence shall not be applicable to~~  
 14 ~~the construction of bridges, culverts, and passageways. The word~~  
 15 ~~tiling as used in this and other sections of this act, means the~~  
 16 ~~laying of a conduit composed of tile, brick, concrete, or other~~  
 17 ~~material. When it~~

(2) **IF THE PETITION DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1)** is necessary  
 19 for the public health of 1 or more cities, villages, ~~and~~ **OR**  
 20 townships, the petition may be signed solely by a **REPRESENTATIVE OF**  
 21 **A** city, village, or township ~~when~~ **IF** authorized by its governing  
 22 body or by a combination of the municipalities, ~~if the municipality~~  
 23 ~~or municipalities are~~ **CITIES, VILLAGES, OR TOWNSHIPS IF EACH CITY,**  
 24 **VILLAGE, OR TOWNSHIP WILL BE** liable to assessments at large for a  
 25 percentage of the total amount assessed for the cost of the  
 26 proposed work. ~~After~~

(3) **AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AFTER** the board of determination

determines the necessity for the work, as provided in section 72,  
~~AND the commissioner shall, as soon as practicable after FILES the~~  
~~final order of determination prescribed in section 151, has been~~  
~~filed by him, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL~~ proceed as provided in  
~~sections 151 to 161. If CHAPTER 7. HOWEVER, IF the apportionment is~~  
~~the same as the last recorded apportionments, no A day of review is~~  
~~necessary, but in other cases the commissioner shall proceed as~~  
~~provided in sections 151 to 161, including the notice of and the~~  
~~holding of a day of review.~~ **NOT REQUIRED.**

Sec. 192. **(1)** ~~Whenever IF a drain or portion thereof, which OF~~  
~~A DRAIN~~ traverses lands in more than 1 county, ~~and IF~~ lands in more  
~~than 1 county shall be ARE~~ subject to assessments, **AND IF THE DRAIN**  
needs cleaning out, relocating, widening, deepening, straightening,  
tiling, extending, or relocating along a highway, ~~or~~ requires  
structures or mechanical devices that will properly purify or  
improve the flow of the drain or pumping equipment necessary to  
assist or relieve the flow of the drain, ~~or~~ needs supplementing by  
the construction of 1 or more relief drains, which may consist of  
new drains or extensions, enlargements or connections to existing  
drains, or needs 1 or more branches added thereto, ~~freeholders~~  
~~within the drainage district equal to 50% of the number of~~  
~~freeholders whose lands are traversed by said drain or drains in~~  
~~said petition or abut on any highway or street along either side of~~  
~~which such drain extends, between the point where said drain enters~~  
~~such highway and the point where it leaves such highway or street~~  
~~and which lands are within the drainage district, TO THE DRAIN, ANY~~  
**5 FREEHOLDERS OR AT LEAST 50% OF THE FREEHOLDERS IF THERE ARE FEWER**

1 **THAN 5 FREEHOLDERS WHOSE LANDS SHALL BE LIABLE TO AN ASSESSMENT FOR**  
 2 **BENEFITS OF THE WORK**, may make a petition in writing to the  
 3 commissioner of any county having lands in ~~such~~**THE** district  
 4 setting forth the necessity of ~~such~~**THE** proposed work. ~~Whenever it~~

5 **(2) IF THE PETITION DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1)** is necessary  
 6 for the public health of 1 or more cities, villages or townships,  
 7 the petition may be signed solely by **A REPRESENTATIVE OF** a city,  
 8 village, or township ~~when duly~~**IF** authorized by its governing body  
 9 or by any combination of ~~such municipalities if the municipality or~~  
 10 ~~municipalities~~**THE CITIES, VILLAGES, OR TOWNSHIPS IF EACH CITY,**  
 11 **VILLAGE, OR TOWNSHIP** will be liable to assessments at large for a  
 12 percentage of the total amount to be assessed for the cost of the  
 13 proposed work. The percentage of cost apportioned to ~~the~~  
 14 ~~municipality or municipalities~~**A CITY, VILLAGE, OR TOWNSHIP** shall  
 15 be based upon the benefits to accrue to ~~such municipality or~~  
 16 ~~municipalities~~**THE CITY, VILLAGE, OR TOWNSHIP** and also the extent  
 17 to which ~~they contribute~~**IT CONTRIBUTES** to the conditions ~~which~~  
 18 ~~makes~~**THAT MAKE** the drain necessary.

19 **(3)** Upon receipt of ~~such~~**A** petition **UNDER SUBSECTION (1)**, the  
 20 commissioner shall notify ~~the state director of agriculture and the~~  
 21 ~~commissioners of each county embracing any lands in the drainage~~  
 22 ~~district, and the director of agriculture~~**OTHER MEMBERS OF THE**  
 23 **DRAINAGE BOARD AS CONSTITUTED UNDER SECTION 122. THE CHAIRPERSON**  
 24 shall call a meeting **OF THE DRAINAGE BOARD** within the time and in  
 25 the manner prescribed in section 122. ~~The persons so named shall~~  
 26 ~~constitute a drainage board and if such work is then determined to~~  
 27 ~~be~~**IF THE DRAINAGE BOARD DETERMINES THAT THE PETITION IS**

1 practicable, ~~they~~ **THE DRAINAGE BOARD** may thereupon appoint a  
2 ~~competent~~ **CAUSE A SURVEY OF THE DRAIN TO BE MADE BY A LICENSED**  
3 **PROFESSIONAL** surveyor or engineer. ~~to make a survey of said drain,~~  
4 ~~and lay out a drainage district according to section 104.~~ After the  
5 surveyor or engineer has filed all data with the drainage board,  
6 ~~the director of agriculture~~ **CHAIRPERSON** shall call a meeting as  
7 provided in section 122, and thereafter ~~take all steps and perform~~  
8 ~~all acts which are required to be done by said board~~ **THE DRAINAGE**  
9 **BOARD SHALL PROCEED AS PROVIDED UNDER CHAPTER 6** upon a petition for  
10 the location, establishment, and construction of ~~drains as provided~~  
11 ~~in sections 121 to 135.~~ Such board and the commissioners shall  
12 ~~exercise such power and be subject to such limitations as are~~  
13 ~~provided in sections 121 to 135.~~ **A DRAIN.**

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