



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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CHANGE MICHIGAN COORDINATE SYSTEM

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House Bill 4348 as introduced
First Analysis (6-3-87)

Sponsor: Rep. Ralph Ostling
Committee: State Affairs

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

Public Act 9 of 1964 described and adopted an official Michigan coordinate system which is used for various kinds of surveying and mapping and which conforms with standards set by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey (now called the National Geodetic Survey/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - NGS/NOAA). The NGS/NOAA is responsible for maintaining the national horizontal datum, is the coordinate system for North America. The NGS/NOAA recently readjusted the national horizontal datum. However, the NGS/NOAA will not update the values within a state until the state enacts legislation to update the changed parameters of the new system. Therefore, legislation is necessary to bring Michigan's coordinate system into agreement with the new national coordinate system.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The bill would amend Public Act 9 of 1964 to name the current coordinate system "the Michigan coordinate system of 1927" (MCS 27). The bill would also add a second coordinate system (to be known as "the Michigan Coordinate System of 1983" or "MCS 83"), and would specify that after December 31, 1989, the 1927 system would be discontinued and only the Michigan coordinate system of 1983 would be used.

Coordinates in the Michigan coordinate system of 1983 would depend on and conform to values published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/ National Geodetic Survey (NOAA/NGS), or by any agency that replaced NOAA/NGS. The division of the state into north, central, and south zones would be retained, and in addition to the existing descriptions of each of these zones a second set of descriptions in terms of the Michigan Coordinate system of 1983 would be added. Descriptions of tracts of land by reference to a subdivision, line, or corner of the U.S. public land surveys or by reference to a subdivision plat recorded according to the subdivision control act of 1967 would continue to take precedence over descriptions based on either of the coordinate systems, but the bill would specify that descriptions of the locations of survey stations or land boundary corners by either of the coordinate systems would be considered "complete, legal and satisfactory".

MCL 54.231 et al.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

According to the Department of Transportation, the bill would have no fiscal implications to the state. (6-2-87)

ARGUMENTS:

For:

Changes to Public Act 9 would keep Michigan's coordinate system compatible with the new national coordinate system. Use of either feet or meters in the revised system allows flexibility for future use of the Michigan Coordinate System. In addition, the bill would eliminate the artificial 800 feet surface plane which would put Michigan on sea level datum and in agreement with the national system.

Against:

The Department of Transportation, as well as some private sector businesses, has a limited number of control monuments (reference points) in existence which are not a part of the published National Geodetic Reference System for which new positions would have to be computed. A few would have to be resurveyed.

SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS:

The Department of Transportation suggests amending the bill to add language that would more accurately reflect current terminology being used by NSG/NOAA.

POSITIONS:

The Department of Transportation supports the bill. (6-2-87)

The Michigan Society of Registered Land Surveyors supports the bill. (6-2-87)

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