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BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Fiscal Agency

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Senate Bill 952 (as reported with amendment)**Sponsor: Senator Vern Ehlers****Committee: Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs****Date Completed: 9-27-88*****RATIONALE***

The Solid Waste Management Act requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to develop and encourage methods of waste disposal that, among other things, both maximize the use of resources and encourage resource conservation. Some people believe, however, that the Act should more clearly encourage the separation from the solid waste stream of materials that may be recyclable.

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Solid Waste Management Act to specify that the Act would have to be "construed and administered to encourage and facilitate the efforts of all persons to engage in source separation and site separation of material from solid waste". The bill also would require the encouragement and facilitation of "other environmentally sound measures" in order to prevent materials from entering the waste stream. In addition, the separated materials would be exempt from efforts to direct portions of the solid waste stream to a specific disposal area.

MCL 299.408

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on the State, depending on whether "encourage and facilitate" included creation or expansion of new Department of Natural Resources programs.

ARGUMENTS***Supporting Argument***

By specifying that the Solid Waste Management Act would be construed and administered to encourage the separation of recyclable materials from the solid waste stream both at the source of the waste and at the disposal site, the bill would promote environmentally conscious efforts to reduce solid waste disposal. In addition, exempting separated materials from efforts to direct solid waste to particular sites would avoid any conflict between a recycling program and a contractual agreement between a disposal company and a unit of government to dispose of a community's waste.

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S.B. 952 (9-27-88)