



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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ORNAMENTAL PLANT COUNCIL

House Bill 4348

**Sponsor: Rep. Thomas L. Hickner
Committee: Agriculture, Forestry &
Minerals**

Complete to 4-23-91

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4348 AS INTRODUCED 2-20-91

The bill would amend the Insect Pest and Plant Disease Act to create an eight-member Michigan Ornamental Plant Council in the Department of Agriculture. Members would be appointed for two-year terms by the governor from lists submitted by the Michigan Association of Nurserymen, and would consist of two growers of nursery stock, two landscape contractors, two retailers of nursery stock, one owner or operator of any business regulated by the act, and the director of the Department of Agriculture (or his or her designee). The council would provide for research on ornamental plants (including methods of planting, growing, controlling insects and diseases, marketing, processing, distribution, advertising, sales production, and product development) and generally help the nursery and landscape industry expand domestic and foreign markets for its products.

Councilmembers would get \$50 a day for each day they spent actually attending meetings of the council, and would get reimbursed for actual travel expenses. The council could promulgate administrative rules to implement and enforce the bill, but could not promulgate any rules that conflicted with rules promulgated by the Department of Agriculture under the bill.

The bill would change license fees. Plant growers and dealers would continue to pay \$20 annual fees for licenses, but the annual license fees for nurserymen and nursery dealers would be based on gross annual sales of nursery stock rather than being a flat \$50 annual fee. Nurserymen and nursery dealers whose gross annual sales were less than \$7,500 would pay \$75 for an annual license, but those with annual sales of \$7,500 or more would pay annual fees of \$200. Plant growers' and dealers' fees and \$50 of each nurseryman's and nursery dealer's fees would be credited to the state general fund. The balance of the fees collected would be credited to the general fund, but used solely for council expenses.

The bill would take effect October 31, 1991.

MCL 286.202 et al.