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PORT SANILAC CONVEYANCES

House Bill 4376 as enrolled
Second Analysis (3-6-94)

Sponsor: Rep. Kim Rhead
House Committee: State Affairs
Senate Committee: State Affairs &
Military/Veterans Affairs

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

The Port Sanilac Harbor of Refuge is the first harbor of refuge built with help from the Michigan State Waterways Commission, with construction of the basic harbor completed by the U.S. Corps of Engineers in 1951. The harbor is located 30 miles north of the St. Clair entrance at Port Huron and 30 miles south of Harbor Beach. The village of Port Sanilac operates and maintains the docking facility, and state land within the harbor of refuge is leased to the village for management of the facility. Legislation has been introduced that would allow the conveyance of two small parcels of land within the harbor of refuge to the village of Port Sanilac.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The bill would convey to the village of Port Sanilac for one dollar two parcels of state-owned land next to the Port Sanilac Harbor of Refuge (a small craft harbor in the village) currently under the jurisdiction of the Department of Natural Resources. The parcels (0.14 acres and 0.28 acres) are bounded on the south by Main Street, on the north by land owned by the village, and on the east by a ten-foot wide riparian public walkway.

The parcels of land would have to be used only for a public harbor open to all members of the public for the same annual and daily fees, terms, and conditions. However, the village could waive daily fees or fees for the use of specific areas or facilities for specified groups or classes of people, but the waiver would have to apply to all members of the group or class regardless of where they lived.

The state would keep all mineral rights, and title to the land would immediately revert to the state if it were used for any purpose other than that stated.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

Fiscal information is not available at present. (3-16-93)

ARGUMENTS:

For:

The Port Sanilac Harbor of Refuge is a heavily used docking facility (for example, in 1991 the harbor operated at 89 percent of slip capacity in July and August) on the eastern shore of the state, located an equal distance from Harbor Beach to the north and the entrance to the St. Clair River at Port Huron to the south. The village of Port Sanilac would like to acquire a small amount of state-owned land in the facility to provide needed expansion for parking, and to permit the eventual relocation of the restroom and shower building. The land, which is part of the DiFronzo estate, adjoins Main Street on the south and the beach on the east, and would provide easy access to the dock facilities (which have 39 transient slips and 27 seasonal slips for boats over 26 feet).

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