



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

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**CONVEY FENTON FISH HATCHERY**

**House Bill 4422 with committee  
amendment  
First Analysis (4-20-93)**

**Sponsor: Rep. Thomas Middleton  
Committee: State Affairs**

***THE APPARENT PROBLEM:***

Currently, the state owns a 42.72-acre tract of land located on the Oakland-Livingston County border (with most of the land in Oakland County), two miles southwest of the village of Holly. The land has a mixed forest cover and two ponds 1.10 and 3.20 acres in size (though the Department of Natural Resources put cuts in the ponds, so one is now dry while the other is only four or five feet deep). The land was acquired piecemeal between 1933 and 1937, and had been used to rear various species of sport fish. It no longer is used for this purpose, and is no longer needed by the DNR. Rose Township would like to acquire the land, and legislation has been introduced that would allow this.

***THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:***

The bill would convey the 42.72 acres of the former Fenton Rearing Pond site to Rose Township for recreational purposes and would allow the township to sell to adjacent landowners, for fair market value, a narrow triangular shaped fragment along the southern border of the tract.

The parcel of land would be conveyed to Rose Township for one dollar, could be used only for public recreation, and would have to be open to all state residents on the same terms, fees, and conditions. The conveyance also would allow Rose Township to sell to adjacent property owners a 1.92 acre strip of land in the conveyance that is south of Baker Road; if the township did this, it would have to reimburse the state for the fair market value of the land sold. Title to the land would revert to the state if the land were used for any purpose other than public recreation, and the state would keep mineral rights to the land.

***FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:***

The Department of Natural Resources says that there will be a small but indeterminate savings to the state because the state will no longer have to pay money in lieu of taxes or for upkeep of the property. (4-16-93)

***ARGUMENTS:***

***For:***

The state no longer need the site of the former Fenton fish hatchery, and Rose Township wishes to acquire the land for public recreational purposes. The township would like to restore the two ponds on the land and restock them, add natural trails and hiking areas, and make the area available to local schools for nature study. The township would preserve and improve the natural quality of the land and allow its continued public use.

***POSITIONS:***

Rose Township supports the bill. (3-31-93)

The Department of Natural Resources supports the bill. (4-15-93)

House Bill 4422 (4-20-93)