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CONVEY OLD ST. POLICE POST

House Bill 4816 with committee
amendment
First Analysis (6-22-93)

Sponsor: Rep. Pat Gagliardi
Committee: State Affairs

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

In 1991, the Mackinac Bridge Authority, which is charged with operating and maintaining the bridge by Public Act 214 of 1952, used funds under its control to pay for the construction of a building near the north end of the bridge. Public Act 120 of 1992 allowed the authority to spend money from this fund to have the building built. Because of studies suggesting that speeding may be a problem on the bridge (speeding, some believe, may have contributed to a fatal accident that occurred on the bridge in 1989 when a car jumped the bridge railing and plunged over 200 feet below), it was felt that the bridge needed to be patrolled more often. To accomplish this, the bridge authority agreed to construct a building that could be leased to the Department of State Police, which has been operating a regional post about two miles to the north in St. Ignace. Now that the bridge building that will house the St. Ignace state police post is nearing completion and the department is ready to move in, plans have been made for using the building that soon will be vacated by the state police. These plans call for conveying the old police post property and buildings to the Mackinac County Road Commission, which would like to use the property for office space and to store road equipment; legislation is needed to convey the property.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The bill would convey a parcel of property located in the city of St. Ignace and under the jurisdiction of the Department of State Police to the Mackinac County Road Commission for \$1, and specify that the property would have to be used exclusively for "a public office building." The conveyance would be made by quitclaim deed approved by the attorney general, reserving mineral rights to the state.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

The Department of State Police says the bill would not affect state or local budget expenditures. (6-18-93)

ARGUMENTS:

For:

The bill would complete the process begun in 1991 of having the state police move a regional post from a building located closer to downtown St. Ignace into a new building constructed with funds from the Mackinac Bridge Authority that is situated on the north end of the bridge. The reason for the relocation is that, due to concerns that speeding may be a problem on the bridge, the state police felt it would be wise to patrol the bridge more often, and that this could be done more conveniently (and, thus, less expensively) from a building located nearly on the bridge itself. The bridge authority agreed (and was authorized under Public Act 120 of 1992) to pay for the building that is to house the new state police post, and to lease space in the building to the state police. With the relocation nearly completed and the old police post now available for use, it has been suggested that the buildings and grounds that formerly housed the post would be ideally suited for use by the Mackinac County Road Commission. The bill simply would convey this property to the road commission, which plans to use it both for office space (for itself and possibly to lease to others) and to store its road vehicles and other equipment.

POSITIONS:

The Department of State Police supports the bill. (6-17-93)

The Mackinac County Road Commission supports the bill. (6-18-93)

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