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SAGINAW BAY CONVEYANCE

House Bill 4863 (Substitute H-1)
First Analysis (9-21-93)

Sponsor: Rep. Howard Wetters
Committee: Conservation, Environment
and Great Lakes

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

Linwood Road is the dividing line between Kawkawlin Township and Fraser Township in Bay County. The road, which passes through the unincorporated village of Linwood, ends at the lake shore (in Saginaw Bay), and reportedly is used as a popular boat launch facility (even though it is not developed). Currently there is no parking for those using the end of the road for launching their boats. The village, the townships, and the county would like to develop the area into a proper boat launch facility, beginning with construction of a parking lot for people using the facility and, eventually, building a fishing pier on the site. Bay County officials have applied for a grant from the Department of Natural Resources to help them in this project (toward which, reportedly, the village of Linwood has already raised \$5,000), but in order to receive a grant from the DNR to develop the parking lot the county apparently must hold title to the land. Legislation has been proposed that would convey the DNR property to the county.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The bill would convey, for one dollar, 1.4 acres of Department of Natural Resources property in Fraser Township, Bay County, to the Bay County Road Commission. If the property were used for other than public purposes, title to the property would revert to the state (which would assume no liability for any improvements made to the property). If the property were used for a public park or public recreational purposes, it would have to be open to all members of the public on the same fees, terms, and conditions; user fees for specific areas or facilities could be waived for specified groups or classes of people, but the waiver would have apply to all members of the group regardless of where they lived. The conveyance would be by quitclaim deed, and would reserve for the state all coal, oil, gas, and other nonmetallic mineral rights.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

The bill would result in revenues to the state of one dollar, to be deposited in the general fund.

ARGUMENTS:

For:

The conveyance of property on Saginaw Bay that is currently under the jurisdiction of the Department of Natural Resources would allow the Bay County Road Commission to maintain and further develop a public boat launch facility. Currently, the end of Linwood Road reportedly is being used by the public as a popular Saginaw Bay boat launch site. However, there is no parking available at the site, and the county has applied to the DNR for a grant to develop and improve the site. In order to receive a grant to build the parking facility, however, the county apparently must first have title to the property to be improved, so it has asked for the conveyance. In addition to upgrading an essentially undeveloped boat launch, thereby providing residents of the state with access to Saginaw Bay for fishing in the summer months, the conveyance also would facilitate ice-fishing during winter months.

POSITIONS:

The Department of Natural Resources supports the bill. (9-15-93)

The Bay County Road Commission supports the bill. (9-20-93)