

Act No. 310
Public Acts of 1994
Approved by the Governor
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**STATE OF MICHIGAN
87TH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 1994**

**Introduced by Senators Hoffman Ehlers Gast Dingell Koivisto McManus Emmons Wartner
Dunaskiss Van Regenmorter DiNello Honigman Gougeon Cisky, Schwarz Geake Miller Pollack
Pridma Conroy and Bouchard**

ENROLLED SENATE BILL No. 927

AN ACT to promote environmental education in the state to provide for an environmental education coordinator within the department of natural resources and to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state agencies and officials

The People of the State of Michigan enact

Sec 1 This act shall be known and may be cited as the environmental education act

Sec 2 The purpose of this act is to facilitate an understanding by citizens of this state of the natural environment including an understanding of basic sciences ecological sciences and of the connection between human beings air land water and other living things as well as how these systems relate to the global environment thus making it possible for human beings to make informed decisions regarding protection and conservation of the environment and utilization of the natural resources in a wise and prudent fashion

Sec 3 As used in this act

(a) Coordinator means the coordinator of environmental education provided for in section 4

(b) Department means the director of the department of natural resources or his or her designee

(c) Director means the director of the department of natural resources

(d) Environmental education means the teaching of factual information of the natural environment including basic sciences ecological sciences agricultural sciences and other relevant subject matter and the interdisciplinary process of developing a citizenry that is knowledgeable about the total environment and has the capacity and the commitment to engage in inquiry problem solving decision making and action that will assure environmental quality

Sec 4 The department shall appoint a coordinator of environmental education within the department of natural resources The coordinator's primary responsibilities shall be to do the following

(a) Coordinate the efforts of the department of natural resources related to environmental education

(b) Work with the department of education and with local education institutions not for profit educational and environmental organizations broadcasting entities and private sector interests to support development of curricula special projects and other activities to increase understanding of the basic sciences and of natural resources and the environment

(c) Provide technical assistance to school districts schools and educators wishing to undertake projects including but not limited to water quality air quality monitoring or habitat protection

(d) If an environmental education advisory committee is established pursuant to section 5 coordinate with the department in staffing the advisory committee

(e) Provide assistance to the commission of natural resources in implementing statewide environmental education strategies developed by the department and the department of education

(f) Assist in identifying grants or other sources of funding for innovative educators and students of environmental education

(g) Recommend the appropriate mechanism for establishment of a clearinghouse of environmental education materials which would make environmental education materials available to educators throughout the state

(h) Provide or support existing training and professional development programs for educators

(i) Assist in the incorporation of environmental education into curriculum objectives for the state s elementary and secondary schools and develop appropriate assessment mechanisms

(j) Promote awareness of section 1171a of the school code of 1976 Act No 451 of the Public Acts of 1976 being section 380 1171a of the Michigan Compiled Laws

Sec 5 (1) The director may establish an environmental education advisory committee If the director establishes an environmental education advisory committee the advisory committee shall be broadly representative of the following

(a) Executive agencies

(b) Environmental or conservation organizations

(c) Business or industry

(d) Individuals with knowledge and experience in general education

(e) Individuals with knowledge and practical experience in environmental education

(f) Individuals with knowledge and experience in the production of food and fiber products

(g) The general public

(2) If the director establishes an environmental education advisory committee under subsection (1) the director shall charge the advisory committee with 1 or more of the following responsibilities

(a) To advise the coordinator the department and the department of education on matters related to environmental education in this state

(b) To assist in coordination of and promotion of environmental education activities in the state

(c) To coordinate and assist in the development of a scope and sequence model for environmental education in the state s elementary and secondary schools

(d) To assist in the incorporation of environmental education into curriculum objectives for the state s elementary and secondary schools and develop appropriate assessment mechanisms

(e) To coordinate and assist in the compilation of curriculum materials to assist in the utilization of the scope and sequence model developed pursuant to subdivision (c) and to meet curriculum objectives

(f) To assist the coordinator in implementing a statewide environmental education strategies

(g) To recommend appropriate teacher training

(h) To perform other duties as identified by the director

(3) The business which an environmental education advisory committee established under this section may perform shall be conducted at a public meeting of the advisory committee held in compliance with the open meetings act Act No 267 of the Public Acts of 1976 being sections 15 261 to 15 275 of the Michigan Compiled Laws If established pursuant to this section the environmental education advisory committee shall actively solicit public testimony at its meetings

(4) Within 3 years after the effective date of this act the director shall prepare and submit to the legislature a report that evaluates the effectiveness of this act and that recommends whether the environmental education advisory committee if established pursuant to this section should be continued

Sec 6 (1) The environmental education fund is created within the state treasury

(2) The state treasurer shall direct the investment of the fund The state treasurer may receive money or other assets from any source for deposit into the fund Interest and earnings from fund investments shall be credited to the fund

(3) Twenty five percent of the civil fines collected annually under the following acts but not more than \$150 000 00 in any fiscal year shall be appropriated to the fund

(a) Act No 245 of the Public Acts of 1929 being sections 323 1 to 323 13a of the Michigan Compiled Laws

(b) The hazardous waste management act Act No 64 of the Public Acts of 1979 being sections 299 501 to 299 551 of the Michigan Compiled Laws

(c) The solid waste management act Act No 641 of the Public Acts of 1978 being sections 299 401 to 299 437 of the Michigan Compiled Laws

(4) Money in the fund at the close of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund and shall not lapse to the general fund

(5) Money in the fund shall be used to implement this act and may be used for the establishment and operation of a clearinghouse of environmental education materials which would make environmental education materials available to educators throughout the state

This act is ordered to take immediate effect

Secretary of the Senate

Co Clerk of the House of Representatives

Approved

Governor