



# SENATE BILL No. 927

November 2, 1993, Introduced by Senators HOFFMAN, EHLERS, GAST, DINGELL, KOIVISTO, MC MANUS, EMMONS, WARTNER, DUNASKISS, VAN REGENMORTER, DI NELLO, HONIGMAN, GOUGEON, CISKY, SCHWARZ, GEAKE, MILLER, POLLACK, PRIDNIA, CONROY and BOUCHARD and referred to the Committee on Education

A bill to promote environmental education in the state to establish a coordinator and a steering committee to provide for certain grants to create a fund to promulgate rules to make certain appropriations under certain circumstances and to prescribe powers and duties of certain state agencies and officials

## THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT

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

3       Sec 2    The purpose of this act is to facilitate an under-  
4 standing by citizens of the state of the connection between them-  
5 selves, air, land, water, and other living things, as well as how  
6 these systems relate to the global environment, thus making it  
7 possible for them to make informed decisions regarding protection

1 and conservation of their environment and utilization of their  
2 natural resources in a wise and prudent fashion

3       Sec 3    As used in this act

4       (a) "Department" means the director of the department of  
5 natural resources or his or her designee

6       (b) "Director" means the director of the department of natu-  
7 ral resources

8       (c) "Fund" means the environmental education fund created in  
9 section 7

10       (d) "Office" means the coordinator of environmental educa-  
11 tion created in section 4

12       (e) "Steering committee" means the environmental education  
13 steering committee created in section 5

14       Sec 4    (1) The coordinator of environmental education is  
15 created within the department of natural resources

16       (2) The coordinator shall do all of the following

17       (a) Work with the department of education and with local  
18 education institutions not-for-profit educational and environ-  
19 mental organizations, noncommercial educational broadcasting  
20 entities, and private sector interests to support development of  
21 curricula, special projects, and other activities, to increase  
22 understanding of natural resources and the environment and to  
23 improve awareness of environmental problems

24       (b) Work with the department of education and with local  
25 education institutions, not-for-profit educational and environ-  
26 mental organizations, noncommercial educational broadcasting  
27 entities, and private sector interests to develop programs to

1 provide increased emphasis and financial resources for the  
2 purpose of attracting students into environmental and natural  
3 resources fields and assisting them in pursuing the programs to  
4 complete the advanced technical education required to provide  
5 effective problem solving capabilities for complex environmental  
6 issues

7 (c) Staff the steering committee

8 (d) Develop a statewide environmental education strategy

9 (e) Coordinate, develop, and make available to teachers con-  
10 venient and up-to-date curriculum materials that can readily be  
11 incorporated into existing course requirements

12 (f) Provide technical assistance to school districts,  
13 schools, and teachers wishing to undertake projects including,  
14 but not limited to, water quality, air quality monitoring, or  
15 habitat protection

16 (g) Establish an environmental education award to recognize  
17 school districts, schools, teachers, classes, or individual stu-  
18 dents making outstanding efforts in environmental education

19 (h) Develop programs to attract a greater number of minority  
20 students into environmental education programs that may lead to a  
21 career track in environmental professions

22 (i) Develop a scholarship program to support students in the  
23 state enrolling in the state's institutions of higher education  
24 who have demonstrated the potential for excellence in environmen-  
25 tal studies

26 (j) Seek federal and private funds to make small grants for  
27 innovative teachers and students

1 (k) Provide or support existing training and professional  
2 development programs for teachers

3 (l) Assist in the incorporation of environmental education  
4 into curriculum objectives for the state's elementary and second-  
5 ary schools and develop appropriate assessment mechanisms

6 (m) Serve as the administrator of the fund

7 (n) In conjunction with the steering committee, recommend to  
8 the director a specific request for proposals for the grant pro-  
9 vided for in section 6

10 Sec 5 (1) The environmental education steering committee  
11 is created within the department of natural resources

12 (2) The steering committee shall consist of the following  
13 members

14 (a) The director or his or her designee

15 (b) The director of the department of education or his or  
16 her designee

17 (c) The director of the department of public health or his  
18 or her designee

19 (d) The director of the department of agriculture or his or  
20 her designee

21 (e) Seven individuals appointed by the director who are  
22 broadly representative of the following interests

23 (1) Agriculture

24 (11) Natural resources and the environment

25 (111) Environmental education

26 (1v) Professional educators

1 (v) The general public

2 (3) The director shall make the appointments under  
3 subsection (2)(e) within 30 days after the effective date of this  
4 act

5 (4) The business which the steering committee may perform  
6 shall be conducted at a public meeting of the steering committee  
7 held in compliance with the open meetings act, Act No 267 of the  
8 Public Acts of 1976, being sections 15 261 to 15 275 of the  
9 Michigan Compiled Laws

10 (5) A writing prepared, owned, used, in possession of, or  
11 retained by the steering committee in the performance of an offi-  
12 cial function is subject to the freedom of information act, Act  
13 No 442 of the Public Acts of 1976, being sections 15 231 to  
14 15 246 of the Michigan Compiled Laws

15 (6) Members of the steering committee shall serve without  
16 compensation However, members of the steering committee may be  
17 reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in  
18 the performance of their official duties as members of the steer-  
19 ing committee

20 (7) The steering committee shall, within 90 days of its  
21 appointment recommend to the department a specific request for  
22 proposals for the grant provided for in section 6

23 (8) Immediately following delivery of its recommendations to  
24 the department under subsection (7), the steering committee is  
25 abolished

26 Sec 6 (1) Within 120 days after the steering committee is  
27 appointed pursuant to section 5, the department shall issue a

1 request for proposals for a grant to be awarded pursuant to this  
2 section The request shall solicit proposals that demonstrate  
3 the capacity of the applicant to establish a private, nonprofit  
4 foundation in this state or convert an existing private, non-  
5 profit foundation in this state to serve as a continuing agency  
6 for the coordination of environmental education activities in  
7 this state The department shall, within 1 year after the effec-  
8 tive date of this act, award a grant to any single proposal that,  
9 in the director's judgment, demonstrates the capacity of the  
10 applicant to do all of the following

11 (a) Serve as a mechanism to solicit funds from the private  
12 sector for the support of environmental education activities

13 (b) Assure coordination of, and cooperation among, existing  
14 public and private sector activities in this state in environmen-  
15 tal education without supplanting those activities

16 (c) Assure the accessibility of environmental education cur-  
17 riculum materials to teachers where possible through the dissem-  
18 ination of materials currently provided by public or private  
19 sources

20 (d) Establish grants programs with public and private fund-  
21 ing to provide or support professional development programs for  
22 teachers and innovative district, school building, teacher, or  
23 classroom projects in environmental education

24 (e) Develop a scholarship program to support state students  
25 enrolling in the state's institutions of higher education who  
26 have demonstrated the potential for excellence in environmental  
27 studies

1 (f) Provide or assure environmental education opportunities,  
2 including outdoor learning experiences, for students from urban  
3 and minority populations

4 (g) Coordinate and assist in the development of a scope and  
5 sequence model for environmental education in the state's elemen-  
6 tary and secondary schools

7 (h) Provide a quality analysis of environmental education  
8 curriculum

9 (i) Designate an existing clearinghouse to receive environ-  
10 mental education curriculum materials

11 (j) Recommend necessary teacher training and preservice  
12 training

13 (k) Assure proper management and administration of the grant  
14 funds to be awarded by the department

15 (2) The department shall notify the chairs of the house and  
16 senate committees on appropriations and the chairs of the house  
17 and senate standing committees that handle issues primarily per-  
18 taining to natural resources and the environment within 5 days  
19 after issuance of the request for proposals and of the grant  
20 award, if any, provided pursuant to this section

21 (3) The department may promulgate rules pursuant to the  
22 administrative procedures act of 1969, Act No 306 of the Public  
23 Acts of 1969, being sections 24 201 to 24 328 of the Michigan  
24 Compiled Laws, as it considers necessary to implement this  
25 section

26 Sec 7 (1) The environmental education fund is created  
27 within the state treasury

1       (2) The state treasurer may receive money or other assets  
2 from any source for deposit into the fund   The state treasurer  
3 shall direct the investment of the fund   The state treasurer  
4 shall credit to the fund interest and earnings from fund  
5 investments

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

8       (4) The department shall annually expend money from the  
9 fund, upon appropriation   only for the following

10      (a) Up to 90% of the money in the fund for a grant to a  
11 foundation that meets the grant criteria listed in section 6

12      (b) Not more than 10% of the money in the fund to carry out  
13 the activities of the office listed in section 4

14      (5) For the succeeding 3 fiscal years following the effec-  
15 tive date of this act, the legislature intends that 25% of the  
16 civil fines collected annually under the following acts, but not  
17 exceeding \$500,000 00 in any fiscal year, shall be appropriated  
18 into the fund

19      (a) Act No 245 of the Public Acts of 1929, being sections  
20 323 1 to 323 12a of the Michigan Compiled Laws

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

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



1 (d) The Goemaere-Anderson wetland protection act, Act  
2 No 203 of the Public Acts of 1979, being sections 281 701 to  
3 281 722 of the Michigan Compiled Laws