



# SENATE BILL No. 195

February 1, 1995, Introduced by Senators DUNASKISS,  
MC MANUS and BENNETT and referred to the Committee  
on Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs.

A bill to amend section 8 of Act No. 203 of the Public Acts  
of 1979, entitled  
"Goemaere-Anderson wetland protection act,"  
as amended by Act No. 110 of the Public Acts of 1993, being  
section 281.708 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1 Section 1. Section 8 of Act No. 203 of the Public Acts of  
2 1979, as amended by Act No. 110 of the Public Acts of 1993, being  
3 section 281.708 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, is amended to read  
4 as follows:

5 Sec. 8. (1) Within 60 days after receipt of the completed  
6 application and fee, the department may hold a hearing. If a  
7 hearing is held, it shall be held in the county where the wetland  
8 on which the permit is to apply is located. Notice of the  
9 hearing shall be made in the same manner as for the promulgation

1 of rules under the administrative procedures act of 1969, Act  
2 No. 306 of the Public Acts of 1969, as amended, being sections  
3 24.201 to 24.328 of the Michigan Compiled Laws. The department  
4 may approve or disapprove a permit application without a public  
5 hearing unless a person requests a hearing in writing within 20  
6 days after the mailing of notification of the permit application  
7 as required by subsection (3), or the department determines that  
8 the permit application is of significant impact to warrant a  
9 public hearing.

10 (2) If a hearing is not held, the department shall approve  
11 or disapprove the permit application within 90 days after the  
12 completed permit application is filed with the department. If a  
13 hearing is held, the department shall approve or disapprove the  
14 permit application within 90 days after the conclusion of the  
15 hearing. The department may approve a permit application,  
16 request modifications in the application, or deny the permit  
17 application. If the department approves the permit application,  
18 the department shall prepare and send the permit to the  
19 applicant. If the department denies, or requests a modification  
20 of, the permit application, the department shall send notice of  
21 the denial or modification request, and the reasons for the  
22 denial or the modifications requested to the applicant.  
23 Department approval may include the issuance of a permit contain-  
24 ing conditions necessary for compliance with this act. If the  
25 department does not approve or disapprove the permit application  
26 within the time provided by this subsection, the permit  
27 application shall be considered approved, and the department

1 shall be considered to have made the determinations required by  
2 section 9. The action taken by the department may be appealed  
3 pursuant to Act No. 306 of the Public Acts of 1969, as amended.  
4 A property owner may, after exhaustion of administrative reme-  
5 dies, bring appropriate legal action in a court of competent  
6 jurisdiction.

7 (3) A person who desires notification of pending permit  
8 applications may make a written request to the department accom-  
9 panied by an annual fee of \$25.00 which shall be credited to the  
10 general fund of the state. The department shall prepare a  
11 biweekly list of the applications made during the previous 2  
12 weeks and shall promptly mail copies of the list for the remain-  
13 der of the calendar year to the persons who requested notice.  
14 The biweekly list shall state the name and address of each appli-  
15 cant, the location of the wetland in the proposed use or develop-  
16 ment including the size of both the proposed use or development  
17 and of the wetland affected, and a summary statement of the pur-  
18 pose of the use or development.

19 (4) A municipality may regulate wetland within its bounda-  
20 ries, by ordinance, only as provided under this act. This sub-  
21 section is supplemental to the existing authority of a  
22 municipality. An ordinance adopted by a municipality pursuant to  
23 this subsection shall comply with all of the following:

24 (a) The ordinance shall not provide a different definition  
25 of wetland than is provided in this act, except that a wetland  
26 ordinance may regulate wetland of less than 5 acres in size.

1 (b) If the ordinance regulates wetland that is smaller than  
2 2 acres in size, the ordinance shall comply with section 8b.

3 (c) The ordinance shall comply with sections 8a and 8c.

4 (d) The ordinance shall not require a permit for uses that  
5 are authorized without a permit under section 6, and shall other-  
6 wise comply with this act.

7 (5) Each municipality that adopts an ordinance regulating  
8 wetlands under subsection (4) shall notify the department.

9 (6) A municipality that adopts an ordinance regulating wet-  
10 lands shall use an application form supplied by the department,  
11 and each person applying for a permit shall make application  
12 directly ~~with~~ TO the municipality. Upon receipt, the munici-  
13 pality shall forward a copy of each application to the  
14 department. The department shall begin reviewing the application  
15 as provided in this act. The municipality shall review the  
16 application pursuant to its ordinance and shall modify, approve,  
17 or deny the application within 90 days after receipt. IF A  
18 MUNICIPALITY DOES NOT APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE THE PERMIT APPLICA-  
19 TION WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD PROVIDED BY THIS SUBSECTION, THE  
20 PERMIT APPLICATION SHALL BE CONSIDERED APPROVED, AND THE MUNICI-  
21 PALITY SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE MADE THE DETERMINATIONS AS  
22 LISTED IN SECTION 9. The denial of a permit shall be accompanied  
23 by a written reason for denial. The failure to supply complete  
24 information with a permit application may be reason for denial of  
25 a permit. The department shall inform any interested person  
26 whether or not a municipality has an ordinance regulating  
27 wetlands. If the department receives an application with respect

1 to a wetland which is located in a municipality which has an  
2 ordinance regulating wetlands, the department immediately shall  
3 forward the application to the municipality, which shall modify,  
4 deny, or approve the application under this subsection. The  
5 municipality shall notify the department of its decision. The  
6 department shall proceed as provided in this act.

7 (7) If a municipality does not have an ordinance regulating  
8 wetlands, the department shall promptly send a copy of the permit  
9 application to the municipality where the wetland is located.  
10 The municipality may review the application; may hold a hearing  
11 on the application; and may recommend approval, modification, or  
12 denial of the application to the department. The recommendations  
13 of the municipality shall be made and returned to the department  
14 within 45 days after the municipality's receipt of the permit  
15 application. The department shall approve, modify, or deny the  
16 application as provided in this act.

17 (8) In addition to the requirements of subsection (7), the  
18 department shall notify the municipality that the department has  
19 issued a permit under this act within the jurisdiction of that  
20 municipality within 15 days of issuance of the permit. The  
21 department shall enclose a copy of the permit with the notice.