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## SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR SEWER SEPARATION/CHARTERTOWNSHIP

**House Bill 5465 as introduced  
First Analysis (2-26-98)**

**Sponsor: Rep. Howard Wetters  
Committee: Tax Policy**

### ***THE APPARENT PROBLEM:***

Some charter townships want to levy special assessments to pay for projects that will separate storm water systems from sanitary sewers. (There has been an emphasis in recent years on the environmental damage that results from combined sewer overflows into lakes and other bodies of water, and federal legislation requires communities to address this problem.) While townships probably already have the authority to do this under existing laws, the Charter Township Act does not specifically provide for it. (It permits special assessments for the laying of storm and sanitary sewers but not for the separating of them.) Township representatives say that the Charter Township Act is sometimes seen as a limiting act that prevents charter townships from doing what would be permitted under other township laws, and they have recommended amendments to the act to specify that special assessments can be levied for the purpose of separating storm water systems and sanitary sewer systems.

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### ***POSITIONS:***

The Michigan Townships Association supports the bill. (2-25-98)

### ***THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:***

The bill would amend the Charter Township Act to allow charter townships to levy special assessments to defray expenses for separating storm water drainage from sanitary sewers on privately owned property for a public purpose.

MCL 42.31

### ***FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:***

The House Fiscal Agency reports that the bill would have no state fiscal impact. (Fiscal Note dated 2-24-98)

### ***ARGUMENTS:***

#### ***For:***

The bill would simply make it clear that charter townships can levy special assessments for the purpose of paying for projects separating storm water systems from sanitary sewers. The Charter Township Act already permits special assessments for the laying of

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