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Senate Bill 795 (as enrolled)

Sponsor: Senator John J. H. Schwarz, M.D.

Committee: Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs

### **CONTENT**

The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow certain organizations, that were not riparian owners, to enter into leases or agreements for the use of Great Lakes submerged lands immediately adjacent to a lighthouse.

Currently, only riparian owners (owners of the land immediately adjacent to the waters of the State) may apply for a lease to use Great Lakes submerged lands, or an agreement to use the water over those lands. The bill would allow the Department of Environmental Quality to accept an application from an approved organization, whether or not a riparian owner, for a lease or agreement to use the Great Lakes bottomlands on which a lighthouse was located, and the water immediately above the bottomlands adjacent to the lighthouse. The bill would define "approved organization" as a nonprofit entity approved by the Department of Environmental Quality, a local unit of government, a Federal or State agency or department, an educational agency, or a community development organization, seeking a lease or agreement to use the bottomlands for the purpose of restoring or maintaining a lighthouse.

Proposed MCL 324.32504a

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government. Approximately 38 lighthouses are located on Great Lakes submerged lands.

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Fiscal Analyst: Pam Graham