

SENATE BILL No. 271

March 1, 2001, Introduced by Senator VAN REGENMORTER and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Tourism.

A bill to require studies of the environmental impact of salt and certain replacements, including alternative techniques, for salt; and to create a temporary commission and prescribe its powers and duties.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
2 "environmental road safety act".

3 Sec. 2. As used in this act:

4 (a) "Commission" means the commission on environmental road
5 safety created in section 4.

6 (b) "Salt" means 1 or more of the following:

7 (i) Sodium chloride.

8 (ii) Calcium chloride.

9 (iii) Potassium chloride.

1 (iv) Magnesium chloride.

2 (v) Sodium sulphate.

3 (vi) Calcium sulphate.

4 (vii) Potassium sulphate.

5 (viii) Magnesium sulphate.

6 (c) "Salt alternatives" means substances or techniques that
7 do not contain or use salt.

8 Sec. 3. (1) The commission shall make the following studies
9 within the times prescribed by subsection (2) with respect to the
10 use of salt alternatives instead of or along with the use of
11 salt:

12 (a) A study of the public safety and effectiveness of salt
13 alternatives on the roads and highways of this state.

14 (b) A study of the effect of salt and salt alternatives with
15 respect to corrosion or deterioration of the roads, highways, and
16 bridges of this state and the vehicles operating on, and struc-
17 tures located near, those roads, highways, and bridges.

18 (c) A study of the short- and long-term environmental impact
19 of continuing to use salt compared with the use of salt alterna-
20 tives on the roads and highways of this state. In the study, the
21 commission shall also consider the effects on the environment
22 associated with the storage of salt compared with the storage of
23 a salt alternative, including, but not limited to, groundwater
24 contamination, salinization of the Great Lakes and of ground and
25 surface waters, and effects on plants and animals.

1 (d) A study of the long-term cost-effectiveness of using
2 salt alternatives instead of salt on the roads and highways of
3 the state. The study shall include all of the following:

4 (i) The total cost of salt alternatives compared with the
5 continued use of salt over a 25-year period taking into account
6 the environmental impact, corrosion, and economic potential
7 information contained in the studies required under this
8 section.

9 (ii) A statement of the comparison of the costs calculated
10 in subparagraph (i) expressed as an annual cost per vehicle reg-
11 istered in this state.

12 (iii) The financial impact on local units of government of
13 use of salt alternatives.

14 (iv) Recommendations of ways to avert the financial impact
15 on local units of government for using salt alternatives.

16 (v) An estimate of potential savings that would be realized
17 by the federal government as a direct result of the use of salt
18 alternatives.

19 (e) A study of the potential for production of a salt alter-
20 native by businesses of this state and whether economic incen-
21 tives to encourage production are necessary and desirable.

22 (2) The studies required under subsection (1)(a), (b), (c),
23 (d), and (e) shall be completed by December 31, 2002.

24 Sec. 4. (1) The commission on environmental road safety is
25 created for the specific purposes of conducting the studies
26 described in section 3 and making recommendations in the form of
27 a report to the legislature based on those studies relative to

1 the use of salt alternatives on the roads and highways of this
2 state.

3 (2) The commission shall include in the report required
4 under subsection (1) its recommendations regarding all of the
5 following:

6 (a) Application amounts and methods of road salt devices.

7 (b) Whether salt should be banned from usage on part or all
8 of the roads and highways of this state.

9 (c) Whether salt should be used in conjunction with other
10 materials.

11 (d) If salt should be banned, the type of salt alternative
12 that should be used as a replacement.

13 (e) If there should be a transition from salt to a salt
14 alternative, the phase-in periods for the transition.

15 (f) A ranking of salt sensitive areas within the state.

16 (3) The commission shall complete its evaluation and make
17 the report required under subsection (1) to the legislature by
18 June 1, 2003.

19 (4) The commission shall consist of 12 members appointed by
20 the governor within 90 days after the effective date of this act
21 with the advice and consent of the senate for terms of 2 years
22 from the following areas:

23 (a) One member shall represent local units of government who
24 shall not be a member of the road agency in a local unit.

25 (b) One member shall represent the boards of county road
26 commissioners.

1 (c) One member shall represent the road interests of cities
2 and villages.

3 (d) One member shall be an economist.

4 (e) One member shall represent environmental interests per-
5 taining to surface, ground, and lake water.

6 (f) One member shall represent environmental interests per-
7 taining to plants and animals.

8 (g) One member who shall be an agronomist and a soil scien-
9 tist shall represent agricultural interests.

10 (h) One member shall represent business other than the deic-
11 ing industry.

12 (i) Two members shall represent the state transportation
13 department, 1 of whom shall be a highway engineer.

14 (j) One member shall represent public health interests.

15 (k) One member shall represent the general public.