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S.B. 853, & 855-858: COMMITTEE SUMMARY

Senate Bills 853 and 855 through 858 (as introduced 12-2-03)

Sponsor: Senator Cameron S. Brown (Senate Bill 853)

Senator Raymond E. Basham (Senate Bill 855) Senator Alan L. Cropsey (Senate Bill 856) Senator Michael D. Bishop (Senate Bill 857) Senator Jud Gilbert, II (Senate Bill 858)

Committee: Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs

Date Completed: 12-2-03

CONTENT

The bills would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to:

- -- Require Travel Michigan to conduct a comprehensive study of litter problems and publish the results.
- -- Require Travel Michigan to develop and administer a marketing program designed to reduce littering.
- -- Require the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to give data information sheets to volunteer groups conducting litter cleanup under the adopt-a-highway program, and request the groups to forward the sheets to Travel Michigan.
- -- Require the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to give data information sheets to volunteer groups conducting litter cleanup under the adopt-a-trail and adopt-a-park programs, and request the groups to forward the sheets to Travel Michigan.
- -- Require the DNR to give Travel Michigan completed data information sheets received from groups conducting cleanup under the adopt-a-river and adopt-a-shoreline programs.
- -- Require Travel Michigan to use information from data information sheets in developing and administering the antilitter marketing program.

All of the bills are tie-barred to Senate Bill 721. (Senate Bill 721 (S-1) would amend the Act to impose a \$3-per-ton surcharge on solid waste disposed of in a landfill, and dedicate up to 10% of the money to the comprehensive study and the marketing program proposed by Senate Bill 856). Senate Bills 853, 855, 857, and 858 also are tie-barred to Senate Bill 856.

Senate Bill 856

The bill would amend Part 89 (Littering) of the Act to require Travel Michigan, assisted by MDOT and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), to conduct a comprehensive study of the litter problems of the State, or have such a study conducted, and to publish the results of the study, within one year from the bill's effective date. Travel Michigan also would have to give a copy of the study to the standing committees of both houses of the Legislature with jurisdiction over matters primarily related to natural resources and the environment.

The study would have to include at least all of the following:

- -- The incidence of littering in the various areas of the State.
- -- A descriptive categorization of areas where littering is the greatest, with, to the extent possible, the relative incidence of littering in each type of area.
- -- Demographic information about people who litter.

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With the DNR's assistance, Travel Michigan would have to develop, from the study, and administer a marketing program designed to reduce the incidence of littering in the State. In administering the program, Travel Michigan would have to 1) use a single marketing slogan, developed in part from suggestions by school children in the State; and 2) coordinate the program with the State's recycling program. Travel Michigan could contract with one or more private persons to develop and administer the marketing program.

As part of the marketing program, Travel Michigan could work with MDOT to expand the adopta-highway program operated by the Department to highways not served by volunteers under that program. Travel Michigan also could work with the DEQ to increase volunteer participation in programs similar to the adopt-a-highway program that seek to remove litter from areas of the State through volunteer participation.

In connection with its adopt-a-highway program, MDOT would have to provide data information sheets to a volunteer group conducting litter cleanup efforts, and request the group to record on the sheets the types and amount of trash collected during its cleanup effort. The Department also would have to request the group to forward the data information sheets to Travel Michigan upon completion.

Travel Michigan would have to compile information from the sheets or other similar programs, and use the information in developing and administering the proposed marketing program.

Senate Bills 853 and 855

Senate Bills 853 and 854 would amend Part 359 (Adopt-A-River Program) and Part 358 (Adopt-A-Shoreline Program), respectively, to require the DNR to give Travel Michigan a copy of completed data information sheets the Department received from volunteer groups conducting litter cleanup efforts. Travel Michigan would have to compile information obtained from the sheets and use the information in developing and administering the proposed antilitter marketing program.

Parts 358 and 359 require the DNR to give data information sheets to volunteer groups conducting litter cleanup efforts, and request the groups to record the types of trash collected. Under the bills, the DNR also would have to request the groups to record the amount of trash collected.

Senate Bill 857 and 858

Senate Bills 857 and 858 would amend Part 721 (Michigan Trailways) and Part 741 (State Parks System), respectively, to require the DNR to give data information sheets to volunteer groups conducting litter cleanup efforts under the adopt-a-trail program or the adopt-a-park program, as applicable. The DNR would have to request the groups to record on the sheets a general characterization of the types and amounts of trash collected during their cleanup efforts. The DNR also would have to request the groups to forward the sheets to Travel Michigan upon completion.

Travel Michigan would have to compile information obtained from the data information sheets and use it in developing and administering the proposed antilitter marketing program.

MCL 324.35903 (S.B. 853) MCL 324.35803 (S.B. 855) Proposed MCL 324.8911-324.8915 (S.B. 856) MCL 324.72105a (S.B. 857) MCL 324.74104 (S.B. 858) Legislative Analyst: Suzanne Lowe

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FISCAL IMPACT

Senate Bill 856 would require Travel Michigan, in conjunction with the Departments of Environmental Quality, Natural Resources, and Transportation, to conduct a comprehensive study of litter problems in the State and development an antilitter marketing campaign from the results. Funding for this project would come from 10% of the revenue generated from a recycling and waste diversion surcharge proposed by Senate Bill 721 (S-1). Under that bill, approximately \$1,534,882 would be available for the study and campaign.

Senate Bills 853 and 855 through 858 also would create a system of reporting litter and waste collected by volunteer groups participating in the Adopt-a-Highway, -Park, -Trail, -River, and -Shoreline programs. Travel Michigan would use the data collected from the volunteer groups to develop the report on litter problems in the State and create the antilitter marketing campaign. The reporting provisions would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Fiscal Analyst: Jessica Runnels

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.