

# SENATE BILL No. 653

August 13, 2003, Introduced by Senator LELAND and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs.

A bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled  
"Natural resources and environmental protection act,"  
by amending section 20129a (MCL 324.20129a), as amended by 1999  
PA 30.

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

1       Sec. 20129a. (1) A person may petition the department  
2 within 6 months after completion of a baseline environmental  
3 assessment for a determination that that person meets the  
4 requirements for an exemption from liability under  
5 section 20126(1)(c) and, in conjunction with that exemption, a  
6 determination that the proposed use of the facility satisfies the  
7 person's obligations under section 20107a. This request may be  
8 made by a prospective purchaser or transferee prior to actual  
9 transfer of ownership or other interest to that person or by a  
10 lender prior to foreclosure. The request shall be submitted on a

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1 form provided by the department along with the fee provided in  
2 subsection (4). The person petitioning the department under this  
3 subsection shall attach the baseline environmental assessment, a  
4 detailed description of the proposed use of the facility, a plan  
5 for any response activities that are necessary to assure that the  
6 proposed use of the facility satisfies the requirements of  
7 section 20107a if a determination regarding compliance with that  
8 section is requested, and the qualifications of the environmental  
9 professionals who have made the recommendations.

10 (2) Within 15 business days after receipt of a petition  
11 under subsection (1), the department shall issue a written  
12 determination to the person submitting the petition that does  
13 either of the following:

14 (a) Affirms that the criteria for obtaining the exemption  
15 have been met and affirms that the proposed use of the facility  
16 would satisfy the person's obligations under section 20107a  
17 provided that the person complies with the plan for the proposed  
18 use of the facility submitted under subsection (1).

19 (b) Provides that the criteria for obtaining the exemption  
20 have not been met, or that the proposed use of the facility does  
21 not satisfy the person's obligation under section 20107a, the  
22 specific reasons for the denial, and how the applicant could meet  
23 the criteria and satisfy the person's obligations under  
24 section 20107a, if possible.

25 (3) A determination by the department under this section may  
26 be conditioned on completion of response activities described in  
27 the petition.

1           (4) Until June 5, ~~2003~~ **2005**, a petition submitted under  
2 subsection (1) shall be accompanied by a fee of \$750.00. The  
3 department shall deposit all fees collected under this section  
4 into the fund. The department shall annually submit a report to  
5 the legislature that details all of the following:

6           (a) The number of petitions received pursuant to this  
7 section.

8           (b) The average length of time which the department has  
9 taken to issue written determinations pursuant to this section.

10          (c) The number of times in which written determinations were  
11 not issued within the required time period.

12          (d) The approximate amount of department staff time  
13 necessary to issue a written determination under this section.

14          (5) A person who is provided an affirmative determination  
15 under this section is not liable for a claim for response  
16 activity costs, fines or penalties, natural resources damages, or  
17 equitable relief under part 17, part 31, or common law resulting  
18 from the contamination identified in the petition or from  
19 contamination existing on the property on the date in which  
20 ownership or control of the property was transferred to the  
21 person. The liability protection afforded in this subsection  
22 does not extend to a violation of any permit issued under state  
23 law. This subsection does not alter a person's liability for a  
24 violation of section 20107a for a use or activity of property  
25 that is inconsistent with the determination.