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BILL ANALYSIS

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House Bill 5333 (Substitute H-1 as reported without amendment)

Sponsor: Representative Kevin Elsenheimer

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Committee: Transportation

## **CONTENT**

The bill would amend Public Act 214 of 1952, which authorized the Mackinac Bridge Authority (MBA) to acquire a bridge connecting the Upper and Lower Peninsulas of Michigan, to repeal Section 3, which authorized the MBA to make preliminary investigations into the feasibility of constructing the bridge.

The bill also would repeal Section 14, which authorized the MBA to employ engineering services it deemed necessary and advisable in connection with the acquisition and construction of the bridge. It also authorized the MBA to employ legal and financial services it deemed necessary to consummate the financing of the bridge and the issuance and sale of the bonds, as well as other personnel and employees necessary to operate and maintain the bridge and carry on the powers and duties under the Act.

The bill is tie-barred to House Bill 5339 (H-1), which would specify that the MBA is within the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT); eliminate a provision allowing the Governor to remove an MBA board member; prohibit MBA funds from being commingled with any other money, and require the requisition of the MBA chairperson or another authorized officer or agent for expenditures; require MDOT to provide the MBA with personnel to perform its powers, duties, and functions; authorize the board to use the services of MDOT or other State departments, or contract for various services; authorize the board to employ legal and financial services (as provided in Section 14); and require the MDOT Director to serve as the appointing authority for the MBA's executive secretary.

House Bill 5333 also is tie-barred to Senate Bills 829 and 830. Senate Bill 829 (S-1) would amend Public Act 13 of 1966 (which provides for the issuance and sale of bonds for the purpose of refunding bonds issued by the MBA) to repeal a section transferring the operation of the Mackinac Bridge to the State Highway Department upon the repayment of refunding bonds issued by the MBA. Senate Bill 830 (S-1) would amend the Executive Organization Act to require the MBA to exercise its statutory powers, duties, and functions independently of the MDOT Director, and perform its budgeting, procurement, and related management functions in consultation with the MDOT Director.

MCL 254.313 & 254.324

Legislative Analyst: Julie Koval

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Date Completed: 12-6-05

Fiscal Analyst: Craig Thiel