

HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 226

A bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled
"Natural resources and environmental protection act,"
(MCL 324.101 to 324.90106) by adding part 23.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

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PART 23. AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

SEC. 2301. AS USED IN THIS PART:

(A) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY.

(B) "DIRECTOR" MEANS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT.

(C) "ROUNDTABLE" MEANS THE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL COMMUNITIES
ROUNDTABLE CONVENED UNDER SECTION 2303.

(D) "RURAL COUNTY" MEANS A COUNTY WITH A POPULATION OF LESS
THAN 70,000.

1 (E) "STANDING COMMITTEES" MEANS THE COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE
2 AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WITH PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR
3 AGRICULTURE.

4 SEC. 2303. (1) THE DIRECTOR SHALL CONVENE AN AGRICULTURE AND
5 RURAL COMMUNITIES ROUNDTABLE TO DISCUSS HOW THE LAWS, RULES AND
6 POLICIES ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT AFFECT FARMERS, FOOD
7 PROCESSORS, AGRIBUSINESS, RURAL COUNTIES, AND CITIES, VILLAGES, AND
8 TOWNSHIPS IN RURAL COUNTIES.

9 (2) THE DIRECTOR SHALL INVITE AT LEAST ALL OF THE FOLLOWING TO
10 PARTICIPATE IN THE ROUNDTABLE:

11 (A) TWO INDIVIDUALS FROM AN ASSOCIATION REPRESENTING FARMERS.

12 (B) TWO INDIVIDUALS FROM AN ASSOCIATION REPRESENTING FOOD
13 PROCESSORS.

14 (C) TWO INDIVIDUALS FROM AN ASSOCIATION REPRESENTING
15 AGRIBUSINESS.

16 (D) ONE INDIVIDUAL REPRESENTING A TOWNSHIP IN A RURAL COUNTY.

17 (E) ONE INDIVIDUAL REPRESENTING A CITY OR VILLAGE IN A RURAL
18 COUNTY.

19 (F) ONE INDIVIDUAL REPRESENTING A RURAL COUNTY.

20 (3) BEFORE EXTENDING INVITATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
21 ROUNDTABLE, THE DIRECTOR SHALL CONSULT WITH THE CHAIRPERSONS OF
22 STANDING COMMITTEES.

23 SEC. 2305. (1) THE FIRST MEETING OF THE ROUNDTABLE SHALL BE
24 CONVENEED BY THE DIRECTOR WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF
25 THE AMENDATORY ACT THAT ADDED THIS SECTION.

26 (2) THE DIRECTOR SHALL CONVENE THE ROUNDTABLE AT LEAST TWICE
27 EACH CALENDAR YEAR, EXCEPT THAT IF THE AMENDATORY ACT THAT ADDED

1 THIS SECTION TAKES EFFECT AFTER SEPTEMBER 30, THE ROUNDTABLE SHALL
2 CONVENE AT LEAST ONCE THE FIRST CALENDAR YEAR. THE ROUNDTABLE MAY
3 ADVISE THE DIRECTOR ON THE NEED FOR A MORE FREQUENT MEETING
4 SCHEDULE.

5 (3) THE MEETINGS OF THE ROUNDTABLE SHALL BE OPEN TO THE
6 GENERAL PUBLIC AND SHALL BE HELD IN A PLACE AVAILABLE TO THE
7 GENERAL PUBLIC.

8 (4) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE NOTICE OF EACH MEETING OF THE
9 ROUNDTABLE BY POSTING ON THE DEPARTMENT WEBSITE AND SUCH OTHER
10 MEANS AS THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES APPROPRIATE.

11 (5) AT LEAST 1 MEETING OF THE ROUNDTABLE EACH YEAR SHALL BE
12 HELD IN A RURAL COMMUNITY. AT SUCH A MEETING, THE PUBLIC SHALL BE
13 PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE ROUNDTABLE ON ISSUES WITHIN
14 ITS PURVIEW.

15 (6) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PREPARE A SUMMARY OF EACH MEETING OF
16 THE ROUNDTABLE INCLUDING A DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TO ISSUES RAISED
17 DURING THE ROUNDTABLE MEETING. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DO BOTH OF THE
18 FOLLOWING:

19 (A) POST THE SUMMARY ON ITS WEBSITE.

20 (B) PROVIDE A COPY OF THE SUMMARY TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
21 ROUNDTABLE, ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC REQUESTING A COPY, AND TO THE
22 STANDING COMMITTEES.