

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:

1                   PART 23. AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

2           SEC. 2301. AS USED IN THIS PART:

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

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

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

8           (D) "RURAL COMMUNITY" MEANS A COUNTY WITH A POPULATION OF LESS  
9 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, AND RURAL COMMUNITIES.

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

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

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

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

15 (D) ONE INDIVIDUAL FROM AN ASSOCIATION REPRESENTING LOCAL  
16 UNITS OF GOVERNMENT IN RURAL AREAS.

17 (3) BEFORE EXTENDING INVITATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE  
18 ROUNDTABLE, THE DIRECTOR SHALL CONSULT WITH THE CHAIRPERSONS OF  
19 STANDING COMMITTEES.

20 SEC. 2305. (1) THE FIRST MEETING OF THE ROUNDTABLE SHALL BE  
21 CONVENED BY THE DIRECTOR WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF  
22 THE AMENDATORY ACT THAT ADDED THIS SECTION.

23 (2) THE DIRECTOR SHALL CONVENE THE ROUNDTABLE AT LEAST TWICE  
24 EACH CALENDAR YEAR, EXCEPT THAT IF THE AMENDATORY ACT THAT ADDED  
25 THIS SECTION TAKES EFFECT AFTER SEPTEMBER 30, THE ROUNDTABLE SHALL  
26 CONVENE AT LEAST ONCE THE FIRST CALENDAR YEAR. THE ROUNDTABLE MAY  
27 ADVISE THE DIRECTOR ON THE NEED FOR A MORE FREQUENT MEETING

1 SCHEDULE.

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

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

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

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

16 (A) POST THE SUMMARY ON ITS WEBSITE.

17 (B) PROVIDE A COPY OF THE SUMMARY TO THE MEMBERS OF THE  
18 ROUNDTABLE, TO ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC REQUESTING A COPY, AND TO  
19 THE STANDING COMMITTEES.