

HOUSE BILL No. 5333

October 19, 2005, Introduced by Reps. Elsenheimer, Taub, Casperson, Hansen, Booher, Jones, LaJoy, Marleau, Walker, Gaffney, Hummel, Amos, Palsrok, Robertson, Garfield, Hildenbrand, Stahl, Meyer, Hoogendyk, Stakoe, Brandenburg and Vander Veen and referred to the Committee on Transportation.

A bill to amend 1952 PA 214, entitled

"An act authorizing the Mackinac bridge authority to acquire a bridge connecting the upper and lower peninsulas of Michigan, including causeways, tunnels, roads and all useful related equipment and facilities, including park, parking, recreation, lighting and terminal facilities; extending the corporate existence of the authority; authorizing such authority to enjoy and carry out all powers incident to its corporate objects; authorizing the appropriation and use of state funds for the preliminary purposes of the authority; providing for the payment of the cost of such bridge and in that connection authorizing the authority to issue revenue bonds payable solely from the revenues of the bridge; granting the right of condemnation to the authority; granting the use of state land and property to the authority; making provisions for the payment and security of such bonds and granting certain rights and remedies to the holders thereof; authorizing banks and trust companies to perform certain acts in connection therewith; authorizing the imposition of tolls and charges; authorizing the authority to secure the consent of the United States government to the construction of the bridge and to secure approval of plans, specifications and location of same; authorizing employment of engineers irrespective of whether such engineers have been

previously employed to make preliminary inspections or reports with respect to the bridge; authorizing the state highway department to operate and maintain such bridge or to contribute thereto and enter into leases and agreements in connection therewith; exempting such bonds and the property of the authority from taxation; prohibiting competing traffic facilities; authorizing the operation of ferries by the authority; providing for the construction and use of certain buildings; and making an appropriation,"

by amending section 14 (MCL 254.324).

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 14. ~~The authority, in its own discretion, is authorized~~
 2 ~~to employ such engineering services as it deems necessary and~~
 3 ~~advisable in connection with the acquisition and construction of~~
 4 ~~such bridge, irrespective of whether such engineer or engineers~~
 5 ~~have been previously employed by the authority to make preliminary~~
 6 ~~inspections or reports in connection therewith, it being the~~
 7 ~~legislative intent and purpose that the disability and restrictions~~
 8 ~~expressed in section 4 of Act No. 21 of the Public Acts of the~~
 9 ~~Extra Session of 1950, being section 254.304 of the Compiled Laws~~
 10 ~~of 1948, be removed and rescinded.~~ The authority, in its ~~own~~
 11 **SOLE** discretion, is ~~also~~ authorized to employ ~~such~~ legal and
 12 financial services ~~as~~ **THAT** it deems necessary to consummate the
 13 financing of the bridge and the issuance and sale of the bonds ~~,~~
 14 and ~~such~~ **ANY** other personnel and employees necessary to operate
 15 and maintain the bridge and carry on the powers and duties
 16 contemplated by this act. **THE AUTHORITY MAY ALSO, IN ITS SOLE**
 17 **DISCRETION, CONTRACT WITH ANY AGENCY, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED**
 18 **TO, THE STATE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT FOR ANY BUSINESS AND**
 19 **STRATEGIC PLANNING, FINANCES, INVESTMENTS, RISK MANAGEMENT,**
 20 **INSURANCE, INSPECTIONS, BRIDGE MAINTENANCE, BRIDGE REPAIR, BRIDGE**
 21 **INSPECTION, BRIDGE OPERATION, BRIDGE MANAGEMENT, BRIDGE**

1 IMPROVEMENT, BRIDGE CONTROL, BUDGETING, PROCUREMENT, AND RELATED
2 MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS THAT THE AUTHORITY DEEMS NECESSARY TO ASSURE
3 CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE BRIDGE.