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House Bill 5745 (as reported without amendment)

Sponsor: Representative Goeff Hansen

House Committee: Agriculture Senate Committee: Agriculture

## **CONTENT**

The bill would create a new act to require the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) to compile and publish information about establishing an alternative fuel production facility in Michigan.

Specifically, the MDA would have to review and study all information available within any State agency or department to determine the body of relevant information regarding the establishment in Michigan of a production facility for an alternative fuel. The MDA also would have to compile information about the procedures for preparing and executing applications and approvals necessary to establish an alternative fuel production facility. The Department would have to publish this information and make it available to the public, in written or electronic format, in separate categories for biodiesel fuel, ethanol, and other categories of alternative fuels.

In performing these functions, the MDA would have to indicate specifically procedures and processes housed in the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Labor and Economic Development, and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

The MDA could identify mechanisms that promoted effective communication and coordination of efforts between this State and local governments, private industry, and institutions of higher education concerning the investigation of, research into, and promotion of alternative fuels. The Department also could review any State regulation that could hinder the use, research, and development of alternative fuels and vehicles that could use them, and recommend changes to the Governor and the Legislature.

Legislative Analyst: Curtis Walker

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

The bill would cost the State an indeterminate amount for staff time and resources to conduct to study and prepare the report. The Department of Agriculture estimates that it would require about half of one full-time position to complete the work, which would cost approximately \$40,000 based on the average salary of an employee of the MDA and benefits. This bill does not identify a fund source to pay for this expense, so the cost would come from current revenue and could direct resources from existing programs.

Date Completed: 9-11-08 Fiscal Analyst: Jessica Runnels