

# HOUSE BILL No. 4721

May 8, 2007, Introduced by Reps. Bennett, Valentine, Polidori, Gonzales, Spade, Hood, Meisner, Miller, Hammel, Bauer, Vagnozzi, Alma Smith, Young, Warren, Meadows, Lindberg, Ebli, Stakoe, Tobocman and Dean and referred to the Committee on Great Lakes and Environment.

A bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled  
"Natural resources and environmental protection act,"  
by amending section 20129a (MCL 324.20129a), as amended by 2005 PA  
42.

## THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1       Sec. 20129a. (1) A person may petition the department within 6  
2 months after completion of a baseline environmental assessment for  
3 a determination that that person meets the requirements for an  
4 exemption from liability under section 20126(1)(c) and, in  
5 conjunction with that exemption, a determination that the proposed  
6 use of the facility satisfies the person's obligations under  
7 section 20107a. This request may be made by a prospective purchaser  
8 or transferee prior to actual transfer of ownership or other

1 interest to that person or by a lender prior to foreclosure. The  
2 request shall be submitted on a form provided by the department  
3 along with the fee provided in subsection (4). The person  
4 petitioning the department under this subsection shall attach to  
5 the petition all of the following:

6 (a) The baseline environmental assessment.

7 (b) A detailed description of the proposed use of the  
8 facility.

9 (c) A plan for any response activities that are necessary to  
10 assure that the proposed use of the facility satisfies the  
11 requirements of section 20107a if a determination regarding  
12 compliance with that section is requested.

13 (d) The qualifications of the environmental professionals who  
14 have made the recommendations.

15 (2) Within 15 business days after receipt of a petition under  
16 subsection (1), the department shall issue a written determination  
17 to the person submitting the petition that does either of the  
18 following:

19 (a) Affirms that the criteria for obtaining the exemption have  
20 been met and affirms that the proposed use of the facility would  
21 satisfy the person's obligations under section 20107a if the person  
22 complies with the plan for the proposed use of the facility  
23 submitted under subsection (1).

24 (b) Provides that the criteria for obtaining the exemption  
25 have not been met or that the proposed use of the facility does not  
26 satisfy the person's obligation under section 20107a, the specific  
27 reasons for the denial, and how the applicant could meet the

1 criteria and satisfy the person's obligations under section 20107a,  
2 if possible.

3 (3) A determination by the department under this section may  
4 be conditioned on completion of response activities described in  
5 the petition.

6 (4) ~~Until June 5, 2007, a~~ A petition submitted under  
7 subsection (1) shall be accompanied by a fee of \$750.00. The  
8 department shall deposit all fees collected under this section into  
9 the fund. The department shall annually submit a report to the  
10 legislature that details all of the following:

11 (a) The number of petitions received pursuant to this section.

12 (b) The average length of time which the department has taken  
13 to issue written determinations pursuant to this section.

14 (c) The number of times in which written determinations were  
15 not issued within the required time period.

16 (d) The approximate amount of department staff time necessary  
17 to issue a written determination under this section.

18 (5) A person who is provided an affirmative determination  
19 under this section is not liable for a claim for response activity  
20 costs, fines or penalties, natural resources damages, or equitable  
21 relief under part 17, part 31, or common law resulting from the  
22 contamination identified in the petition or from contamination  
23 existing on the property on the date in which ownership or control  
24 of the property was transferred to the person. The liability  
25 protection afforded in this subsection does not extend to a  
26 violation of any permit issued under state law. This subsection  
27 does not alter a person's liability for a violation of section

- 1 20107a for a use or activity of property that is inconsistent with
- 2 the determination.