

# HOUSE BILL No. 6581

October 29, 2008, Introduced by Rep. Elsenheimer and referred to the Committee on  
Tourism, Outdoor Recreation and Natural Resources.

A bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled  
"Natural resources and environmental protection act,"  
by amending section 61003 (MCL 324.61003), as added by 1998 PA 117.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 61003. (1) The department shall, ~~implement procedures in~~  
2 ~~compliance with this part that allow the department, after~~  
3 consultation with the natural resources trust fund board and  
4 approval of the natural resources commission, ~~to~~ divest itself of  
5 severed oil and gas rights and reunite the oil and gas rights with  
6 the surface rights. The department is not required to divest itself  
7 of oil and gas rights to land that is in production or is leased or  
8 permitted for production, or to land which the department  
9 determines has unusual or sensitive environmental features that

1 should be reserved by the state and maintained in an undeveloped  
2 state, or to land which the department may consider offering for  
3 exchange to consolidate inholdings within management areas.

4 (2) When the department transfers oil and gas rights under  
5 this part, the department shall include a deed restriction that  
6 restricts the oil and gas rights from being severed from the  
7 surface rights in the future. If the landowner severs the  
8 subsurface rights from the surface rights, the subsurface rights  
9 revert to this state.