

Act No. 182  
Public Acts of 2008  
Approved by the Governor  
July 9, 2008  
Filed with the Secretary of State  
July 9, 2008  
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 9, 2008

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
94TH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2008**

**Introduced by Reps. Meadows, Sak, Vagnozzi, LeBlanc, Bieda, Alma Smith, Byrnes, Wojno, Accavitti, Kathleen Law, Polidori, Constan, Robert Jones, Clack, Bauer, Young, Simpson, Donigan, Valentine, Warren, McDowell, Miller, Melton, Hammel, Espinoza, Brown, Lemmons, Meisner, Sheltroun, Hammon, Toboeman, Corriveau, Farrah, Cushingberry, Jackson, Johnson, Coulouris, Brandenburg and Dean**

# **ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 5066**

AN ACT to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled "An act to protect the environment and natural resources of the state; to codify, revise, consolidate, and classify laws relating to the environment and natural resources of the state; to regulate the discharge of certain substances into the environment; to regulate the use of certain lands, waters, and other natural resources of the state; to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state and local agencies and officials; to provide for certain charges, fees, assessments, and donations; to provide certain appropriations; to prescribe penalties and provide remedies; and to repeal acts and parts of acts," by amending sections 32707, 32708, 32708a, and 32709 (MCL 324.32707, 324.32708, 324.32708a, and 324.32709), section 32707 as amended by 2006 PA 33, section 32708 as amended and section 32708a as added by 2006 PA 35, and section 32709 as added by 1995 PA 59.

*The People of the State of Michigan enact:*

Sec. 32707. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3), a person who is required to register under section 32705 or holds a permit under section 32723 shall file a report annually with the department on a form provided by the department. Reports shall be submitted by April 1 of each year. Except as provided in subsection (8), reports shall include the following information:

- (a) The amount and rate of water withdrawn on an annual and monthly basis.
  - (b) The source or sources of the water supply.
  - (c) The use or uses of the water withdrawn.
  - (d) The amount of consumptive use of water withdrawn.
  - (e) If the source of the water withdrawn is groundwater, the location of the well or wells in latitude and longitude, with the accuracy of the reported location data to within 25 feet.
  - (f) If the source of water withdrawn is groundwater, the static water level of the aquifer or aquifers, if practicable.
  - (g) Other information specified by rule of the department.
  - (h) At the discretion of the registrant or permit holder, the baseline capacity of the withdrawal and, if applicable, a description of the system capacity.
  - (i) At the discretion of the registrant or permit holder, the amount of water returned to the source watershed.
  - (j) Beginning in 2010, an acknowledgment that the registrant has reviewed applicable environmentally sound and economically feasible water conservation measures prepared under section 32708a.
- (2) If a person reports the information required by this section to the department in conjunction with a permit or for any other purpose, that reporting, upon approval of the department, satisfies the reporting requirements of this section.
- (3) The owner of a farm who reports water use under section 32708 is not required to report under subsection (1).
- (4) The department may, upon request from a person required to report under this section, accept a formula or model that provides to the department's satisfaction the information required in subsection (1).

(5) The department shall develop forms for reporting under this section that minimize paperwork and allow for a notification to the department instead of a report if the annual amount of water withdrawn by a person required to report under this section is within 4% of the amount last reported and the other information required in subsection (1) has not changed since the last year in which a report was filed.

(6) Information described in section 32701(d)(i)(B) that is provided to the department under subsection (1)(h) is exempt from disclosure under the freedom of information act, 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231 to 15.246, and shall not be disclosed unless the department determines that the withdrawal is causing an adverse resource impact.

(7) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a person who files an annual report or notification under this section shall annually remit a water use reporting fee of \$200.00 to the department. Water use reporting fees shall be remitted to the department in conjunction with the annual report or notification submitted under this section. The department shall transmit water use reporting fees collected under this section to the state treasurer to be credited to the water use protection fund created in section 32714. A water use reporting fee is not required for a report or notification related to a farm that reports withdrawals under section 32708 or for a report under subsection (8).

(8) A person who withdraws less than 1,500,000 gallons of water in any year shall indicate this fact on the reporting form and is not required to provide information under subsection (1)(a) or (d). A person who withdraws less than 1,500,000 gallons of water in any year is not required to pay the water use reporting fee under subsection (7).

Sec. 32708. (1) The owner of a farm that is registered under this part who makes a withdrawal for an agricultural purpose, including irrigation for an agricultural purpose, may report the water use on the farm by annually submitting to the department of agriculture a water use conservation plan. Conservation plans shall be submitted by April 1 of each year. The water use conservation plan shall include, but need not be limited to, all of the following information:

(a) The amount and rate of water withdrawn on an annual and monthly basis in either gallons or acre inches.

(b) The type of crop irrigated, if applicable.

(c) The acreage of each irrigated crop, if applicable.

(d) The source or sources of the water supply.

(e) If the source of the water withdrawn is groundwater, the location of the well or wells in latitude and longitude, with the accuracy of the reported location data to within 25 feet.

(f) If the water withdrawn is not used entirely for irrigation, the use or uses of the water withdrawn.

(g) If the source of water withdrawn is groundwater, the static water level of the aquifer or aquifers, if practicable.

(h) Applicable water conservation practices and an implementation plan for those practices. Beginning in 2010, the water use conservation plan shall include an acknowledgment that the owner of the farm has reviewed applicable environmentally sound and economically feasible water conservation measures prepared under section 32708a.

(i) At the discretion of the registrant, the baseline capacity of the withdrawal based upon system capacity and a description of the system capacity.

(2) The department and the department of agriculture in consultation with Michigan state university shall validate and use a formula or model to estimate the consumptive use of withdrawals made for agricultural purposes consistent with the objectives of section 32707.

(3) Subject to subsection (4), information provided to the department of agriculture under subsection (1)(a), (d), and (e) shall be forwarded to the department for inclusion in the statewide groundwater inventory and map prepared under section 32802.

(4) Information provided under subsection (1)(a), (e), and (i) is exempt from disclosure under the freedom of information act, 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231 to 15.246, and shall not be disclosed by the department, the department of agriculture, or the department of natural resources unless the department determines that the withdrawal is causing an adverse resource impact.

Sec. 32708a. (1) Not later than March 31, 2009, the department shall prepare, based upon recommendations from representative trade associations, a set of generic water conservation measures that are applicable to all persons making large quantity withdrawals. The department shall post these generic water conservation measures on its website.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), each water user's sector may prepare and submit to the department water conservation measures that are applicable for water users within its sector. Upon receipt of water conservation measures from a water user's sector, the department shall review the water conservation measures, and, if the department determines that those water conservation measures are appropriate for that sector, the department shall accept those water conservation measures. Upon acceptance, the department shall post the water conservation measures on its website and those water conservation measures shall supersede the generic water conservation measures prepared under subsection (1) for water users within that sector. If the department determines that the water conservation measures are not appropriate for the water user's sector, the department shall provide comments to the water user's sector and suggestions that would result in the department's acceptance of the water conservation measures. A water user's sector may resubmit water conservation measures in response to the department's comments and suggestions.

(3) Water conservation measures for agricultural purposes shall be developed and approved by the commission of agriculture and shall be updated annually as part of the process for review and update of generally accepted agricultural and management practices under the Michigan right to farm act, 1981 PA 93, MCL 286.471 to 286.474. Water conservation measures approved under this subsection shall be posted on the department of agriculture's website and shall be forwarded to the department for posting on its website.

(4) By April 1, 2010, the department shall report to the standing committees of the legislature with jurisdiction primarily related to natural resources and the environment on the status of the preparation and acceptance of water user sector conservation measures.

(5) If the department receives a registration for a zone C withdrawal, the department shall notify all other registrants and permit holders whose withdrawals are from the same water source as the zone C withdrawal of the status of the water source. Upon receipt of notification under this subsection, each of these registrants and permit holders shall review and consider implementing the applicable water conservation measures prepared under this section.

(6) Compliance with water conservation measures does not authorize a water withdrawal that is otherwise prohibited by law.

(7) As used in this section:

(a) "Permit holders" means persons holding a permit under section 32723 and persons holding a permit under the safe drinking water act, 1976 PA 399, MCL 325.1001 to 325.1023.

(b) "Water conservation measures" means environmentally sound and economically feasible water conservation measures.

Sec. 32709. The department may contract for the preparation and distribution of informational materials to members of the public related to any of the following:

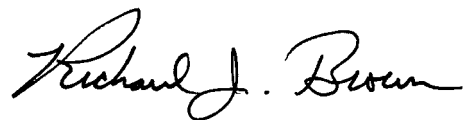
(a) The purposes, benefits, and requirements of this part.

(b) Information on complying with the registration requirement of this part and on any general or applicable methods for calculating or estimating water withdrawals or consumptive uses.

Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect unless all of the following bills of the 94th Legislature are enacted into law:

- (a) Senate Bill No. 212.
- (b) Senate Bill No. 723.
- (c) Senate Bill No. 727.
- (d) Senate Bill No. 858.
- (e) Senate Bill No. 859.
- (f) Senate Bill No. 860.
- (g) House Bill No. 4343.
- (h) House Bill No. 5065.
- (i) House Bill No. 5067.
- (j) House Bill No. 5069.
- (k) House Bill No. 5073.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.



Clerk of the House of Representatives



Secretary of the Senate

Approved .....

.....  
Governor