

# HOUSE BILL No. 4727

June 17, 2015, Introduced by Reps. Cole, Pettalia, Rendon and Vaupel and referred to the Committee on Local Government.

A bill to amend 1959 PA 259, entitled  
"Tall structure act,"  
by amending sections 1, 2a, 2d, 6, and 7 (MCL 259.481, 259.482a, 259.482d, 259.486, and 259.487), sections 1, 6, and 7 as amended and sections 2a and 2d as added by 1986 PA 296, and by adding section 2f.

## THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1       Sec. 1. As used in this act:

2       (a) "Airport" means a structure or an area of land or water  
3 that is designed and set aside for the landing and taking off of  
4 aircraft, is utilized or to be utilized by and in the interest of  
5 the public for the landing and taking off of aircraft, and is  
6 licensed by the commission.

7       (b) "ANEMOMETER" MEANS AN INSTRUMENT FOR MEASURING AND

1 **RECORDING THE SPEED OF WIND.**

2 (C) ~~(b)~~—"Approach surface" means an imaginary plane  
3 longitudinally centered on a runway's centerline extended, and  
4 extending outward and upward from each end of that runway's primary  
5 surface, which plane has the specifications described in section  
6 2c.

7 (D) ~~(c)~~—"Commission" means the Michigan aeronautics  
8 commission.

9 (E) ~~(d)~~—"Conical surface" means an imaginary plane extending  
10 outward and upward from the perimeter of a runway's horizontal  
11 surface at **1 OF THE FOLLOWING SLOPES, AS APPLICABLE:**

12 (i) **IF THE AIRPORT AT WHICH THE RUNWAY IS LOCATED HAS A**  
13 **PUBLISHED INSTRUMENT APPROACH PROCEDURE, AT a slope of 50 to 1.**

14 (ii) **IF SUBPARAGRAPH (i) DOES NOT APPLY, AT A SLOPE OF 20 TO**  
15 **1.**

16 (F) ~~(e)~~—"FAA" means the ~~federal aviation administration~~  
17 **FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION** or a successor agency to the  
18 ~~federal aviation administration.~~**FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION.**

19 (G) ~~(f)~~—"Heliport approach surface" means an imaginary plane  
20 projecting outward and upward from the perimeter of a heliport  
21 primary surface at a slope of 8 to 1.

22 (H) ~~(g)~~—"Heliport primary surface" means an imaginary plane  
23 that is at the elevation established for a heliport coinciding in  
24 size and shape with the designated takeoff and landing area of that  
25 heliport.

26 (I) ~~(h)~~—"Horizontal"—**HORIZONTAL** surface" means an imaginary  
27 horizontal plane 150 feet above the elevation established for an

1 airport, the perimeter of which plane is constructed as described  
2 in section 2e.

3 (J) "METEOROLOGICAL TOWER" MEANS A STRUCTURE, INCLUDING ALL  
4 GUY WIRES AND ACCESSORY FACILITIES, ON WHICH AN ANEMOMETER IS  
5 MOUNTED FOR THE PURPOSES OF DOCUMENTING WIND RESOURCES FOR THE  
6 OPERATION OF A WIND TURBINE GENERATOR.

7 (K) ~~(i)~~—"Minimum obstruction clearance altitude" means the  
8 lowest FAA published altitude that assures acceptable navigational  
9 signal coverage and that is in effect between radio fixes on a low  
10 altitude airway, on an off-airway route, or, ~~provided-IF~~ the  
11 altitude meets obstacle clearance requirements for the entire route  
12 segment, on a route segment.

13 (I) ~~(j)~~—"Nonprecision approach procedure" means a ~~standard~~  
14 **STRAIGHT-IN** instrument approach in which an electronic glide slope  
15 is not provided.

16 (M) ~~(k)~~—"Permit" means a permit issued by the commission under  
17 this act.

18 (N) ~~(l)~~—"Person" means an individual, firm, partnership,  
19 corporation, association, or body politic. Person includes a  
20 trustee, receiver, assignee, or other similar representative of a  
21 person.

22 (O) ~~(m)~~—"Precision approach procedure" means a standard  
23 instrument approach in which an electronic glide slope is provided.

24 (P) ~~(n)~~—"Primary surface" means an imaginary plane  
25 longitudinally centered on a runway, which plane has the  
26 specifications described in section 2b.

27 (Q) ~~(o)~~—"Runway" means the portion of an airport designated as

~~the~~ **EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING:**

(i) **AN** area used for the landing or takeoff of aircraft.

(ii) **AN AREA PROPOSED, AND APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION, TO BE USED FOR THE LANDING OR TAKEOFF OF AIRCRAFT.**

(R) ~~(p)~~ "Structure" means an object constructed or installed, including, but not limited to, a building, tower, antenna, smokestack, or overhead transmission line.

(S) ~~(q)~~ "Transitional surface" means an imaginary plane perpendicular to a runway centerline and to that centerline extended through the runway's primary surface and approach surface, which plane extends outward and upward from each side of the runway's primary surface and approach surface at a slope of 7 to 1 for the distances described in section 2d.

(T) ~~(r)~~ "Utility runway" means a runway that is constructed for and intended to be used by **PROPELLER-DRIVEN** aircraft with a maximum gross weight of 12,500 pounds or less.

(U) ~~(s)~~ "Visual approach procedure" means an approach in which an aircraft on an instrument flight rules flight plan, operating in visual flight rules conditions under the control of an air traffic control authorization, may proceed to the airport of destination in visual flight rules conditions.

Sec. 2a. (1) **THE COMMISSION SHALL NOT ISSUE A PERMIT ALLOWING CONSTRUCTION, REPLACEMENT, OR AN INCREASE IN HEIGHT OF A STRUCTURE THAT VIOLATES THE REQUIREMENTS OF AN APPLICABLE ZONING ORDINANCE ADOPTED BY A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION UNDER THE AIRPORT ZONING ACT, 1950 (EX SESS) PA 23, MCL 259.431 TO 259.465, UNLESS THE APPLICANT HAS OBTAINED THE APPROVAL OF A VARIANCE FROM THE ORDINANCE AND AN**

1   **AIRSPACE STUDY HAS BEEN CONDUCTED BY THE COMMISSION RESULTING IN A**  
2   **FINDING OF NONINTERFERENCE TO AIR NAVIGATION.**

3       (2) Unless an airspace study has been made by the commission  
4   resulting in a finding of noninterference to air navigation, the  
5   commission shall not issue a permit allowing construction of any of  
6   the following structures, or replacement of or an increase in the  
7   height of a structure that creates any of the following structures:

8       (a) A structure that is over 500 feet above ground elevation  
9   at the structure's site and that is within 2 miles of a well-  
10   defined natural landmark such as a shoreline or river; a manmade  
11   landmark such as a railroad, canal, or road; or a low altitude  
12   airway.

13       (b) A structure of a height that would increase the minimum  
14   obstruction clearance altitude, the minimum safe altitude  
15   prescribed by the FAA, or the minimum altitude required for a safe  
16   instrument approach.

17       (c) A structure that would encroach into a runway's primary  
18   surface.

19       (d) A structure of a height that would penetrate a runway's  
20   approach surface.

21       (e) A structure of a height that would penetrate a runway's  
22   transitional surface.

23       (f) A structure of a height that would penetrate a runway's  
24   horizontal surface.

25       (g) A structure of a height that would penetrate a runway's  
26   conical surface.

27       (h) A structure that would encroach into a heliport primary

1 surface.

2 (i) A structure of a height that would penetrate a heliport  
3 approach surface.

4 ~~—— (j) A structure that violates a zoning ordinance adopted by a~~  
5 ~~political subdivision under the airport zoning act, Act No. 23 of~~  
6 ~~the Public Acts of the Extra Session of 1950, being sections~~  
7 ~~259.431 to 259.465 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, except to the~~  
8 ~~extent permitted by the zoning ordinance.~~

9 Sec. 2d. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a runway's  
10 transitional surface extends to the intersection of the  
11 transitional surface with the ~~conical~~ **HORIZONTAL** surface.

12 (2) For a runway that has a precision instrument approach, the  
13 transitional surface beginning at the side of a runway's approach  
14 surface extends for 5,000 feet measured horizontally from the side  
15 of the approach surface.

16 **SEC. 2F. (1) A METEOROLOGICAL TOWER THAT IS 50 FEET IN HEIGHT**  
17 **ABOVE THE GROUND OR HIGHER, THAT IS LOCATED OUTSIDE THE ZONING**  
18 **JURISDICTION OF A CITY, AND THE APPEARANCE OF WHICH IS NOT**  
19 **OTHERWISE REGULATED BY STATE OR FEDERAL LAW MUST COMPLY WITH ALL OF**  
20 **THE FOLLOWING:**

21 **(A) THE TOWER MUST BE PAINTED IN EQUAL, ALTERNATING BANDS OF**  
22 **ORANGE AND WHITE, BEGINNING WITH ORANGE AT THE TOP OF THE TOWER AND**  
23 **ENDING WITH ORANGE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE TOWER.**

24 **(B) THE TOWER MUST HAVE 1 OR MORE 7-FOOT SAFETY SLEEVES PLACED**  
25 **AT EACH ANCHOR POINT THAT EXTEND FROM THE ANCHOR POINT ALONG EACH**  
26 **GUY WIRE ATTACHED TO THE ANCHOR POINT.**

27 **(C) THE TOWER MUST HAVE AT LEAST 1 ORANGE MARKER BALL ATTACHED**

1 TO EACH GUY WIRE AT THE HIGHEST POINT THAT DOES NOT AFFECT THE  
2 STABILITY OF THE TOWER AND THE MEASUREMENT OF WIND SPEED.

3 (2) THE COMMISSION MAY ESTABLISH, MAINTAIN, AND PUBLISH A  
4 DATABASE THAT CONTAINS LOCATIONS OF ALL EXISTING METEOROLOGICAL  
5 TOWERS.

6 (3) WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION,  
7 AN OWNER OF ANY EXISTING METEOROLOGICAL TOWER ERECTED IN THIS STATE  
8 SHALL PROVIDE THE COMMISSION WITH ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

9 (A) THE GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM COORDINATES OF THE CENTER OF  
10 THE METEOROLOGICAL TOWER.

11 (B) THE ELEVATION OF THE SITE, IN FEET.

12 (C) THE STRUCTURE'S HEIGHT ABOVE GROUND LEVEL, IN FEET.

13 (D) THE OWNER'S OR LESSEE'S NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER,  
14 AND ELECTRONIC MAIL ADDRESS, IF ANY.

15 (E) THE NAME OF ANY OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE.

16 (4) WITHIN 1 YEAR AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION, AN  
17 OWNER OF AN EXISTING METEOROLOGICAL TOWER ERECTED IN THIS STATE  
18 SHALL MARK THE TOWER AS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (1).

19 (5) TEN DAYS OR MORE BEFORE THE ERECTION OF A NEW  
20 METEOROLOGICAL TOWER, AN OWNER OF THE TOWER SHALL PROVIDE TO THE  
21 COMMISSION THE INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (3) AND  
22 CERTIFICATION BY THE OWNER THAT THE TOWER HAS BEEN MARKED IN  
23 ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.

24 (6) WITHIN 10 DAYS AFTER THE REMOVAL OF A METEOROLOGICAL  
25 TOWER, AN OWNER OF THE TOWER SHALL NOTIFY THE COMMISSION OF THE  
26 REMOVAL.

27 Sec. 6. (1) A permit ~~shall~~**MUST** specify the obstruction

1 markers, markings, lighting, or other visual or aural  
2 identification required to be installed on or in the vicinity of  
3 the structure, if any. The identification characteristics required  
4 ~~shall~~**MUST** conform to federal laws and regulations. **NOTWITHSTANDING**  
5 **ANY FEDERAL GUIDELINES, AND ON CONSIDERATION OF THE RELEVANT FACTS,**  
6 **A PERMIT MAY REQUIRE LIGHTING TO BE OPERATIONAL DURING DAYLIGHT**  
7 **HOURS.**

8 (2) Unless waived by the commission ~~due to~~**BECAUSE OF** federal  
9 permit requirements or other valid reasons, the obstruction lights  
10 for a structure more than 800 feet above the ground elevation at  
11 the structure's site ~~shall~~**MUST** be high intensity white obstruction  
12 lights **AND MUST BE OPERATIONAL DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS, IN ADDITION**  
13 **TO ANY NIGHTTIME LIGHTING REQUIREMENT.**

14 (3) If ordered by the commission, the owner of a nonconforming  
15 structure that is permanently out of service or partially  
16 dismantled, destroyed, deteriorated, or decayed shall demolish or  
17 remove ~~that~~**THE** structure.

18 (4) Failure to maintain obstruction lights in an operable  
19 condition is a violation of this act.

20 Sec. 7. (1) ~~Upon~~**ON** receiving an application for a permit, the  
21 commission shall investigate as necessary to process the  
22 application properly under this act. In an investigation under this  
23 section, the commission shall consider the safety and welfare of  
24 persons and property in the air and on the ground and that  
25 consideration ~~shall~~**MUST** be paramount to a consideration of  
26 economic and technical factors.

27 (2) If, ~~upon the~~**ON** investigation, the commission determines

1 that a permit should not be issued or that the height or location  
2 should be other than as applied for, the commission shall notify  
3 the applicant in writing of the commission's determination. The  
4 notification may be served by delivering it personally to the  
5 applicant or by sending it by first-class mail to the applicant at  
6 the address specified in the application. The determination is  
7 final ~~20-30~~ days after notification of the determination is served,  
8 unless the applicant, within the ~~20-day~~ **30-DAY** period, requests in  
9 writing that a hearing be held before the commission with reference  
10 to the application. ~~A~~ **THE COMMISSION SHALL MAKE A** hearing under  
11 this section ~~shall be~~ open to the public. Any person interested may  
12 appear and be heard either in person or by counsel and may present  
13 pertinent evidence and testimony.

14 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 90 days  
15 after the date it is enacted into law.