

SENATE BILL NO. 743

November 30, 2021, Introduced by Senators SCHMIDT and CHANG and referred to the Committee on Economic and Small Business Development.

A bill to create the Great Lakes maritime office and prescribe its powers and duties; to allow the provision of grants and other financial and technical assistance related to port facilities; and to provide the powers and duties of certain state governmental officers and entities.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. This act may be cited as the "Great Lakes maritime
2 office act".

3 Sec. 3. As used in this act:

1 (a) "Department" means the state transportation department.

2 (b) "Grant program" means the Great Lakes maritime grant
3 program created in section 5 of the Great Lakes maritime grant
4 program act.

5 (c) "Office" means the Great Lakes maritime office created in
6 section 5.

7 (d) "Port facility" means a structure or improvement to land
8 located alongside navigable water that is used for any of the
9 following:

10 (i) Loading and unloading of cargo from ships, ferries, and
11 other floating vessels.

12 (ii) Supporting the operation of ships, ferries, and other
13 floating vessels.

14 (iii) Handling, storing, packaging, transferring, and moving
15 cargo to other modes of transportation.

16 (iv) Assembling, processing, refining, or improving goods
17 recently received from or before entry into maritime transport.

18 Sec. 5. (1) The Great Lakes maritime office is created within
19 the department. The office shall do both of the following:

20 (a) Assist owners of port facilities in this state by doing
21 all of the following:

22 (i) Administering the grant program.

23 (ii) Developing a statewide strategic maritime plan.

24 (iii) Identifying federal funding opportunities to which owners
25 of port facilities can apply.

26 (iv) Providing technical assistance to integrate and take
27 advantage of the maritime resources of this state in moving goods
28 within and through this state to support a global economy,
29 including, but not limited to, establishing a funding program for

1 transportation projects with the objective of supporting the United
2 States Maritime Transportation System, informing the department
3 about leveraging the United States Maritime Transportation System
4 for economic development, and conducting statewide maritime
5 research and planning.

6 (b) Perform the duties described in the Great Lakes maritime
7 grant program act.

8 (2) The department shall appoint a full-time director of the
9 office, and provide the office with appropriate staff support and
10 resources. The director's sole responsibility under this act is to
11 carry out the duties of the office as described in this act and the
12 Great Lakes maritime grant program act.

13 Enacting section 1. This act does not take effect unless
14 Senate Bill No. 744 of the 101st Legislature is enacted into law.