

SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 5188

A bill to amend 1956 PA 40, entitled
"The drain code of 1956,"
by amending section 196 (MCL 280.196), as amended by 2020 PA 291.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 196. (1) ~~An annual inspection may be made of a drain~~
2 ~~established under this act. An inspection shall be made~~ **A drain may**
3 **be inspected annually. In addition, a drain shall be inspected** upon
4 the request of the governing body of a public corporation, as
5 described in section 461, served in whole or in part by the drain.
6 ~~to be inspected.~~ Any inspection under this subsection shall be
7 conducted by the following:

8 (a) For a county drain, by the drain commissioner or a
9 competent person appointed by the drain commissioner.

(b) For an intercounty drain, by the drainage board or a competent person appointed by the drainage board.

(2) Surplus construction funds remaining after completion of construction of a drain, or funds remaining after completion of work performed under a petition for maintenance or improvements under this chapter, shall be deposited in the drain fund of the drainage district and shall be expended for inspection, repair, and maintenance of the drain.

(3) If at any time the drain fund of a drainage district contains less than ~~\$5,000.00~~ **\$10,000.00** per mile or fraction of a mile of a drain, the drain commissioner or drainage board may assess the drainage district for an amount not to exceed ~~\$2,500.00~~ **\$5,000.00** per mile or fraction of a mile in any 1 year. The amount collected under an assessment shall be deposited in the drain fund of the drainage district for inspection, repair, and maintenance of the drain.

(4) If an inspection discloses the necessity of expending money for the maintenance or repair of a drain to keep it in working order, the drain commissioner for a county drain, or the drainage board for an intercounty drain, may without petition expend an amount not to exceed in any 1 year ~~\$5,000.00~~ **\$10,000.00** per mile or fraction of a mile for maintenance and repair of the drain, not including inspection and engineering fees, legal fees, and the cost of publication and mailing. The ~~determination of the~~ maximum expenditure allowed under this subsection shall be **determined** based on the total number of miles of the drain and not on the ~~actual number of miles or location of the maintenance or repair.~~ **actually inspected, maintained, or repaired.** Costs incurred for the inspection, maintenance, and repair of a drain performed

under this section may be financed and assessed under this act for not more than 10 years. **As of January 1, 2025, and each calendar year thereafter, the state treasurer shall adjust the \$10,000.00 figure in this subsection by an amount determined by the state treasurer to reflect the cumulative percentage change in the Consumer Price Index since January 1, 2024. As used in this subsection, "Consumer Price Index" means the most comprehensive and recently available index of consumer prices for this state from the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor. The state treasurer shall report the adjusted amount to the department of agriculture, which shall post and maintain the adjusted amount on its publicly accessible website.**

(5) If the drain commissioner or the drainage board finds it necessary to expend funds in addition to the amount established in subsection (4) per mile or fraction of a mile in any 1 year for the maintenance and repair of a drain, **except as provided in subsection (10)**, the additional amounts shall not be expended until approved by resolution of the governing body of each township, city, and village affected by more than 20% of the cost.

(6) If the drain fund of a drainage district does not contain sufficient funds to pay for inspection, repair, and maintenance authorized by this section, the drain commissioner or the drainage board may finance the costs for not more than 10 years and shall assess the drainage district for not more than 10 years for the inspection, repair, and maintenance according to benefits received. The first installment of an assessment under this subsection shall be made and spread upon the city or township tax assessment roll within 2 years after the completion of the inspection, repair, and maintenance. If the total expenditure is more than the amount

1 established in subsection (4) per mile or fraction of a mile, all
 2 real property owners subject to an assessment within the drainage
 3 district shall be notified of the assessment by publication in a
 4 newspaper of general circulation within the drainage district and
 5 by first-class mail to the name and address that appears on the
 6 last city or township assessment roll. ~~An~~ **The drain commissioner**
 7 **shall make an** affidavit of mailing. ~~shall be made by the drain~~
 8 ~~commissioner.~~ The affidavit is conclusive proof that the notices
 9 required by this subsection were mailed. The failure of a person to
 10 receive a notice by mail is not a jurisdictional defect
 11 invalidating a drain assessment if notice by publication was given
 12 as required by this subsection.

13 (7) An assessment under subsection (6) for the actual cost of
 14 inspection, repair, and maintenance performed on a drain, or an
 15 assessment under subsection (3) to be deposited in the drain fund
 16 of a drainage district, shall be made according to benefits
 17 received. The expenditure limit ~~of the amount established in~~
 18 subsection (4) per mile or fraction of a mile of drain shall be
 19 used to calculate the maximum amount that the drain commissioner or
 20 drainage board may assess in any 1 year without a petition **under**
 21 **section 191 or 192** or a request from a public corporation **under**
 22 **subsection (5).** ~~Determination of the~~ **The** maximum assessment amount
 23 allowed without petition or request ~~, or of the property that is~~
 24 ~~subject to assessment,~~ shall be based on the **total** number of miles
 25 of ~~the drain and areas of the drainage district receiving benefits~~
 26 and not on the ~~actual number of miles or actual location of the~~
 27 ~~inspection, repair, and maintenance.~~ **actually inspected, repaired,**
 28 **or maintained. The property that is subject to assessment shall be**
 29 **based on the areas of the drainage district receiving benefits and**

1 not on the actual location of the inspection, repair, and
2 maintenance.

3 (8) If an emergency condition exists that endangers the public
4 health, crops, or property within a drainage district, and the
5 drain commissioner or drainage board enters an order declaring and
6 describing the emergency, the commissioner or drainage board may
7 expend funds for maintenance and repair to alleviate the emergency.
8 ~~condition.~~

9 (9) The drain commissioner or drainage board shall not levy an
10 additional assessment for drain maintenance under this section if
11 there is currently an assessment for previous maintenance work on
12 the drain under this section unless subsection (8) applies or the
13 expenditure for maintenance is approved by the governing body of
14 each township, city, and village affected by more than 20% of the
15 cost.

16 (10) The drain commissioner or the drainage board may expend
17 funds in excess of the ~~amount established~~ **expenditure limit** in
18 subsection (4) per mile or fraction of a mile in any 1 year for
19 inspection, maintenance, and repair of a drain if requested by a
20 public corporation and if the public corporation pays the entire
21 cost of the inspection, maintenance, and repair.

22 ~~(11) In computing the amounts that may be expended under~~ **For**
23 **purposes of** this section, **the costs of maintenance and repair do**
24 **not include** the cost of work to be performed by a federal agency or
25 public corporation that is not chargeable to the ~~county or~~
26 ~~intercounty drainage district. shall not be included.~~ The drain
27 commissioner or the drainage board is not required to advertise for
28 bids for that portion of the work to be done by the federal agency
29 or public corporation.

1 (12) For purposes of this section, the costs of maintenance
2 and repair include all of the following:

3 (a) The cost of maintaining the drain in working order to
4 continue a normal flow of water, including the servicing or repair
5 of necessary pumping equipment and utility charges for pumping
6 equipment.

7 (b) The cost of keeping the drain free from rubbish, debris,
8 siltation, or obstructions.

9 (c) The cost of repairing a portion or all of a tile or drain
10 to continue the normal flow of water.

11 (d) Other costs associated with the costs described in
12 subdivisions (a) to (c).

13 (13) The dollar amount limitations in subsections (4), (6),
14 and (7) do not apply to expenditures or assessments to the extent
15 the expenditures or assessments are necessary to pay utility
16 charges or costs to service pumping stations, sewage treatment
17 facilities, or detention or retention basins.

18 (14) Except as otherwise provided in this act, that portion of
19 the salaries, expenses, and fringe benefits of administrative and
20 engineering employees under the supervision of the drain
21 commissioner that are directly attributable, but not incidental, to
22 a drain and **that are** not otherwise recovered by fees established by
23 resolution or ordinance of the **county** board of commissioners may be
24 charged to the drain fund of a drainage district.