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House Bill 5544 (as reported without amendment)**Sponsor: Representative Debbie Stabenow****House Committee: Economic Development and Energy****Senate Committee: Energy****Date Completed: 5-16-88****RATIONALE**

The Michigan Superconducting Super Collider Act was created in 1987 to help the State prepare to establish a proposed \$4.5 billion U.S. Department of Energy superconducting super collider if Michigan is chosen as the project site. The Act established the Michigan Superconducting Super Collider (SSC) Commission which is composed of State officials, representatives of universities, individuals nominated by legislative leaders, and 10 individuals appointed by the Governor representing utilities, business, labor, environmental organizations, local government, and private citizens. The Commission is charged with developing plans for the procurement and development of the proposed super collider project and has had to deliberate a number of different issues. Perhaps the most significant issue has been to try to find equitable ways to acquire property for the super collider from residents in the Stockbridge area — the location of the proposed project site. Acquiring the necessary land for the development of the project is considered crucial if Michigan is to make a serious attempt to win the super collider; consequently, certain residents of the area are being asked to relocate their homes, and the State has committed itself to compensating all of these residents fully. Some have suggested adding to the SSC Commission a Governor-appointed member who is a resident of the proposed area, so that the concerns of those who are being asked to relocate would be better represented. Also, some feel that the Director of the Department of Agriculture should be a member of the SSC Commission in order to ensure that agricultural concerns were considered adequately in the land acquisition process.

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Michigan Superconducting Super Collider Act to expand the membership of the Michigan Superconducting Super Collider Commission from 20 to 22 members. The bill would add the Director of the Department of Agriculture and one member to the group that the Governor is entitled to appoint to include an individual who was a resident of the area of the proposed site for the superconducting super collider.

MCL 3.814

Legislative Analyst: P. Affholter

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on State and local government. By requiring the Governor to appoint one additional member, who is a resident of the area of the proposed super collider site, the State would have to pay a per diem fee to the member. The per diem rate has

not yet been determined by the legislature. The number of days that would be paid is also indeterminate; the meetings would be held "as considered necessary". The proposed inclusion of the Director/designee from the Department of Agriculture as an additional member would have no fiscal impact.

ARGUMENTS**Supporting Argument**

Michigan's effort to win the proposed U.S. Department of Energy Superconducting Super Collider has been aided by the SSC Commission created under the Michigan Superconducting Super Collider Act. The Commission deliberates various concerns associated with the procurement and establishment of the super collider in Michigan, and one of the major concerns of the Commission involves land acquisition. Residents of the area where the super collider will be located if Michigan wins the project have been asked to relocate at the State's expense. Questions regarding the relocation of these residents, such as how much a local property owner should be paid for his or her property, will affect the lives of more than 200 families in the area. The Commission is composed of people who represent State and local government, universities, and legislators, as well as 10 individuals appointed by the Governor who represent a wide range of interests. Currently, none of these Governor-appointed members of the Commission is a resident of the proposed site for the super collider. Such a person could give residents of the area a voice in the Commission's deliberations and could improve negotiations between residents of the area and the State in the land-acquisition and relocation process.

Supporting Argument

Since there could be implications to land and agriculture in the plans for developing the super collider, the Director of the Department of Agriculture, or his or her designee, representing State agricultural concerns, should be added to the SSC Commission. This would ensure that agricultural concerns associated with the development of the project were considered adequately in the Commission's deliberations.

Legislative Analyst: P. Affholter

Fiscal Analyst: J. Schultz

This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

H.B. 5544 (5-16-88)