HOUSE BILL No. 4020

January 22, 2007, Introduced by Rep. Rick Jones and referred to the Committee on Regulatory Reform.

A bill to amend 1956 PA 40, entitled

"The drain code of 1956,"

by amending sections 72, 154, and 221 (MCL 280.72, 280.154, and 280.221), section 72 as amended by 1987 PA 60.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

- 1 Sec. 72. (1) As soon as practicable after the filing of a
- 2 petition UNDER SECTION 71, the DRAIN commissioner authorized to act
- 3 on the petition, if not disqualified under section 381 to make the
- 4 apportionment of benefits, may appoint a board of determination.
- 5 composed of 3 disinterested property owners. If the DRAIN
- 6 commissioner is disqualified or chooses not to appoint the board of
- 7 determination, the DRAIN commissioner shall immediately file a copy
 - of the petition with the chairperson of the county board of
- commissioners, together with a statement signed by the DRAIN
- 10 commissioner, showing that he or she is disqualified or chooses not

- 1 to act in appointing a board of determination. Upon AS SOON AS
- 2 PRACTICABLE AFTER receiving a copy of the petition and certificate,
- 3 the chairperson of the county board of commissioners, if not
- 4 privately interested, as soon as practicable, shall appoint a board
- 5 of determination composed of 3 disinterested property owners and
- 6 shall immediately notify the drain commissioner of the names and
- 7 addresses of those appointed. If the chairperson of the board of
- 8 commissioners has a private interest in the proceedings, the drain
- 9 committee of the county board of commissioners shall appoint the
- 10 board of determination. Members of boards
- 11 (2) A BOARD OF DETERMINATION SHALL CONSIST OF 3 INDIVIDUALS.
- 12 AT LEAST 1 MEMBER OF A BOARD OF DETERMINATION SHALL BE AN ELECTED
- 13 OR APPOINTED OFFICIAL OF A LOCAL UNIT OF GOVERNMENT, OTHER THAN A
- 14 CITY, VILLAGE, OR TOWNSHIP ALL OR PART OF WHICH IS INCLUDED IN THE
- 15 DRAINAGE DISTRICT. EACH MEMBER OF A BOARD of determination shall be
- 16 residents MEET ALL OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:
- 17 (A) THE PERSON SHALL BE A DISINTERESTED PROPERTY OWNER.
- 18 (B) THE PERSON SHALL BE A RESIDENT of the county but not of a
- 19 township, city, or village TO BE affected by the drain. , and may
- 20 not be members
- 21 (C) THE PERSON SHALL NOT BE A MEMBER of the county board of
- 22 commissioners of the county. A meeting of the board of
- 23 determination shall be called within the drainage district at a
- 24 convenient place to be designated by the drain commissioner. The
- 25 board of determination meeting also may be held at a public
- 26 building within the city, village, or township in which the drain
- 27 is located.

- 1 (D) THE PERSON SHALL BE A MEMBER OF A POOL OF PERSONS ELIGIBLE
- 2 FOR SERVICE ON BOARDS OF DETERMINATION. TO BECOME A MEMBER OF SUCH
- 3 A POOL, A PERSON SHALL BE RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNTY BOARD OF
- 4 COMMISSIONERS BY THE DRAIN COMMISSIONER IN WRITING AND APPROVED BY
- 5 THE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS. IF THE COUNTY BOARD OF
- 6 COMMISSIONERS FAILS TO APPROVE OR REJECT A PERSON RECOMMENDED BY
- 7 THE DRAIN COMMISSIONER WITHIN 45 DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF THE
- 8 RECOMMENDATION, THE PERSON SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO BE APPROVED AS A
- 9 MEMBER OF THE POOL. A PERSON SHALL SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE POOL
- 10 FOR A TERM OF 2 YEARS AFTER THE DATE THAT PERSON WAS APPROVED OR
- 11 CONSIDERED TO BE APPROVED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS. A
- 12 PERSON MAY SERVE FOR SUCCESSIVE TERMS, SUBJECT TO REAPPROVAL BY THE
- 13 COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.
- 14 (3) If 1 of those appointed to the board of determination
- 15 fails or refuses to serve OR IS DISQUALIFIED, the drain
- 16 commissioner shall appoint a successor.
- 17 (4) The per diem compensation, mileage, and expenses of a
- 18 member of the board of determination shall be the same as FOR the
- 19 county board of commissioners of the county. In counties where
- 20 COUNTY commissioners are not paid on a per diem basis, the
- 21 compensation, mileage, and expenses shall be fixed by the drain
- 22 commissioner. The members of the board of determination shall not
- 23 receive more than 1 per diem for a day no matter how many separate
- 24 matters are considered on that day.
- 25 (5) Upon request, the county drain commissioner shall inform
- 26 in writing the requesting state legislator who represents that
- 27 portion of the area in which the proposed drain improvement is to

- 1 be constructed of the names and addresses of the persons appointed
- 2 to a board of determination.
- 3 (6) (2) THE DRAIN COMMISSIONER SHALL CALL A MEETING OF THE
- 4 BOARD OF DETERMINATION. THE MEETING SHALL BE HELD WITHIN THE
- 5 DRAINAGE DISTRICT AT A PUBLIC BUILDING WITHIN A CITY, VILLAGE, OR
- 6 TOWNSHIP IN WHICH THE DRAIN IS TO BE LOCATED. The drain
- 7 commissioner shall give public notice of the time, date, and place
- 8 of the A meeting of the board of determination in the manner
- 9 required by the open meetings act, Act No. 267 of the Public Acts
- 10 of 1976, as amended, being sections 15.261 to 15.275 of the
- 11 Michigan Compiled Laws 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 TO 15.275, and by
- 12 publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county at
- 13 least 10 days before the meeting. Notice also shall be served on
- 14 THE DRAIN COMMISSIONER SHALL GIVE NOTICE OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD
- 15 OF DETERMINATION TO the county clerk and on the clerk of each
- 16 township, city, and village in the DRAINAGE district, personally or
- 17 by registered mail, at least 10 days before the meeting. The drain
- 18 commissioner also shall send notice, by first-class mail, of the
- 19 time, date, and place of the A meeting OF THE BOARD OF
- 20 DETERMINATION, to each person whose name appears on the last city,
- 21 village, or township tax assessment roll as owning land within the
- 22 special assessment DRAINAGE district, at the address shown on the
- 23 roll. If an address does not appear on the roll, a notice need not
- 24 be mailed to the person. The drain commissioner shall make an
- 25 affidavit of the mailing and shall recite in the affidavit that the
- 26 persons to whom the notice was mailed constitute all of the persons
- 27 whose names and addresses appear upon the tax rolls as owning land

- 1 within the particular special assessment DRAINAGE district. The
- 2 affidavit shall be IS conclusive proof that notice was mailed to
- 3 each person to whom notice is required to be mailed pursuant to
- 4 this section. The failure OF A PERSON to receive a notice by mail
- 5 shall DOES not constitute a jurisdictional defect invalidating a
- 6 drain proceeding or tax, or both, if notice has been sent by first-
- 7 class mail as provided in this section. Expenses of notification
- 8 shall be paid by the drainage district. when created.
- 9 (7) (3) At the time and place fixed STATED in the notice, the
- 10 board of determination shall meet, elect a chairperson and
- 11 secretary, and proceed to determine the necessity of the proposed
- 12 drain. and whether the drain is conducive to public health,
- 13 convenience, or welfare. The board of determination, if it
- 14 considers it necessary, shall require the county drain commissioner
- 15 to obtain from the county treasurer a statement showing the amount
- 16 of taxes and special assessments levied against the land in the
- 17 proposed drainage district on the tax rolls for the immediately
- 18 preceding 3 years and the amount of the taxes and assessments
- 19 remaining unpaid. If it appears from the statement that 25% or more
- 20 of the taxes are unpaid on the lands, further action shall not be
- 21 taken. After hearing the evidence offered, the board of
- 22 determination shall make its determination on the necessity of the
- 23 drain. and whether the drain is conducive to public health,
- 24 convenience, or welfare. If the board of determination finds, by a
- 25 majority vote of the members, that the PROPOSED drain is not
- 26 necessary, and conducive to public health, convenience, or welfare,
- 27 the board of determination shall file with the DRAIN commissioner

- 1 an order dismissing the petition, and a further petition for the
- 2 drain shall not be entertained within 1 year after the
- 3 determination. If the board of determination, by a majority vote,
- 4 finds the PROPOSED drain proposed to be necessary, and conducive to
- 5 the public health, convenience, or welfare, the board of
- 6 determination shall make an order to that effect and file the order
- 7 with the commissioner THE BOARD OF DETERMINATION SHALL INCORPORATE
- 8 ITS FINDING THAT THE DRAIN IS NECESSARY IN A PRELIMINARY ORDER OF
- 9 NECESSITY AND SHALL FILE THE PRELIMINARY ORDER OF NECESSITY WITH
- 10 THE DRAIN COMMISSIONER.
- 11 (8) IF THE BOARD OF DETERMINATION FILES A PRELIMINARY ORDER OF
- 12 NECESSITY UNDER SUBSECTION (7), THE DRAIN COMMISSIONER SHALL
- 13 PREPARE AN ESTIMATE OF THE COST OF THE PROPOSED DRAIN AND SUBMIT
- 14 THAT ESTIMATE TO THE BOARD OF DETERMINATION. IF THE BOARD OF
- 15 DETERMINATION FINDS THE DRAIN IS NECESSARY CONSIDERING COST AND
- 16 PRACTICALITY, IT SHALL FILE WITH THE DRAIN COMMISSIONER A FINAL
- 17 ORDER OF NECESSITY TO THAT EFFECT.
- 18 (9) If the board of determination finds that a portion of the
- 19 construction of the proposed drain is necessary for the protection
- 20 of the public health in 1 or more cities, villages, and OR
- 21 townships, the order OF NECESSITY shall set forth the determination
- 22 giving the names of the THAT FINDING AND IDENTIFY THOSE
- 23 municipalities. receiving benefit for health. If the board of
- 24 determination determines FINDS that the whole cost, except that to
- 25 be levied against state or county highways for highway benefits, is
- 26 necessary for the public health IN 1 OR MORE CITIES, VILLAGES, OR
- 27 TOWNSHIPS, the cost shall be levied against the townships,

- 1 villages, and cities THOSE MUNICIPALITIES at large, and it shall IS
- 2 not be necessary, in a subsequent order or notice, to describe or
- 3 refer to land included in or comprising the drainage district. Upon
- 4 filing of the order of determination by the board of determination,
- 5 the drain commissioner, within 10 days of filing, IF THE BOARD OF
- 6 DETERMINATION FINDS THAT ALL OR A PORTION OF THE COST OF
- 7 CONSTRUCTION IS NECESSARY FOR THE PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN 1
- 8 OR MORE MUNICIPALITIES, WITHIN 10 DAYS AFTER THE BOARD OF
- 9 DETERMINATION FILES THE ORDER OF NECESSITY, THE DRAIN COMMISSIONER
- 10 shall notify each municipality BY REGISTERED MAIL that it is liable
- 11 to pay a percent of the cost of construction of the drain by reason
- 12 of benefits at large for public health. The governing body of the
- 13 township, city, or village, within WITHIN 20 days after receipt of
- 14 the notification, by registered mail from the drain commissioner,
- 15 THE GOVERNING BODY OF A MUNICIPALITY may appeal the order of the
- 16 board of determination to the probate CIRCUIT court having
- 17 jurisdiction in FOR the county. in which the township, city, or
- 18 village is located. Upon WITHIN 20 DAYS AFTER receipt of the order
- 19 of the board of determination, and OR, if an appeal has not been
- 20 taken by a municipality to the probate CIRCUIT court, UPON
- 21 TERMINATION OF THE APPEAL PROCEEDINGS, the DRAIN commissioner 7
- 22 after 20 days, shall make his or her first order of determination
- 23 in writing, giving the name or number of the drainage district -
- 24 The commissioner shall establish AND the commencement, route,
- 25 terminus, and type of construction of the drain. , a copy of which
- 26 WITHIN 15 DAYS AFTER MAKING THE order, he or she THE DRAIN
- 27 COMMISSIONER shall file , within 15 days, A COPY OF THE ORDER in

- 1 his or her office. If an appeal is taken to the probate court by a
- 2 municipality, the commissioner shall file his or her first order of
- 3 determination after the appeal procedures are terminated.
- 4 (10) IF THE BOARD OF DETERMINATION FINDS THE DRAIN IS NOT
- 5 NECESSARY CONSIDERING COST AND PRACTICALITY, IT SHALL ENTER A FINAL
- 6 ORDER OF NO NECESSITY TO THAT EFFECT. COSTS INCURRED SINCE THE
- 7 FILING OF THE PRELIMINARY ORDER OF NECESSITY SHALL BE SPREAD TO THE
- 8 DRAINAGE DISTRICT.
- 9 Sec. 154. (1) The commissioner shall give notice for the
- 10 receiving of bids for the construction of the drain and for the
- 11 holding of a public meeting . At the meeting a review shall be made
- 12 of TO REVIEW the apportionment of benefits. The notice shall
- 13 specify the time and place of receiving bids $\overline{}$ and the time and
- 14 place of the meeting for TO review of THE apportionment. The
- 15 meeting shall be HELD not less than 5 nor more than 30 days after
- 16 the date set for receiving bids. The notice shall be given by
- 17 publication of at least 2 insertions TWICE in a newspaper published
- 18 and of general circulation in the county. The first publication
- 19 shall be at least 10 days before the date set for receiving bids.
- 20 The drain commissioner shall ALSO send notice by first-class mail
- 21 of the time, date, and place of the meeting, at least 10 days
- 22 before the date of the meeting, to each person whose name appears
- 23 upon the last city or township tax assessment roll as owning land
- 24 within the special assessment district, at the address shown on the
- 25 roll. If an address does not appear on the roll, then notice need
- 26 not be mailed to the person. The drain commissioner shall make an
- 27 affidavit of the mailing and shall recite in the affidavit STATING

- 1 that the persons to whom the notice was mailed —constitute all of
- 2 the persons whose names and addresses appear upon the tax rolls as
- 3 owning land within the particular special assessment district. The
- 4 affidavit shall be conclusive proof that notice was mailed to each
- 5 person to whom notice is required to be mailed. If notice has been
- 6 sent by first-class mail as provided in this section, the failure
- 7 to receive notice by mail shall—DOES not constitute a
- 8 jurisdictional defect invalidating a drain proceeding or tax. If
- 9 the board of determination determines that the drain is necessary
- 10 for the protection of the public health and that the whole cost of
- 11 the drain, except that part which may be apportioned for benefits
- 12 to highways, shall be apportioned to municipalities, then THE
- 13 mailing of individual notices to persons owning land within the
- 14 special assessment district as OTHERWISE provided in this section
- 15 shall not be IS NOT required.
- 16 (2) The notice shall also contain the names of the counties,
- 17 cities, townships, or villages to be assessed at large, and shall
- 18 be personally served on the county clerk and 1 or more members of
- 19 the road commission of a county, or road district, the supervisor
- 20 of a township, the mayor of a city, and the president of a village
- 21 to be assessed at large. The notice shall contain a description of
- 22 the land constituting the special assessment district for the
- 23 drain. The description may be stated by designating the boundaries
- 24 of the special assessment district by streets, highways, parcels,
- 25 or tracts of land or by describing the tracts or parcels of land
- 26 constituting the district. A tract or parcel need not be subdivided
- 27 beyond the point where the whole of the tract or parcel is within

- 1 the drainage district or to describe the drain further than by
- 2 reference to it by its name or number. The notice shall also state
- 3 the number and length of sections, the average depth and width of
- 4 each section, and in case of closed drains, the amount and
- 5 specifications of all tile or pipe required. The notice shall
- 6 contain the location, number, type, and size of all culverts and
- 7 bridges and the conditions upon which the contract will be awarded.
- 8 The notice need not contain minutes of survey or table of cuttings
- 9 which shall be kept on file in the office of the drain
- 10 commissioner.
- 11 (3) Bids shall be received and computation of the total cost
- 12 of the drain shall be made_COMPLETED before the time set for review
- 13 of the apportionment, and the computation shall be open to
- 14 inspection. If the computation is not completed before the day of
- 15 review, the review may be adjourned from time to time, not more
- 16 than 20 days in all, for the completion of the computation, or a
- 17 new hearing may be called with similar notice, by publication and
- 18 service at least 10 days before the hearing. If the contracts on
- 19 which the computation was based are not executed and new contracts
- 20 shall be ARE let at a higher price, a corrected computation shall
- 21 be made and a new review held with a similar notice. At the time
- 22 and place fixed in the notice, or at another time and place to
- 23 which the county drain commissioner may adjourn the hearing
- 24 (4) IF THE COMPUTATION OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE DRAIN EXCEEDS
- 25 BY MORE THAN 25% THE ESTIMATE OF COST SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF
- 26 DETERMINATION UNDER SECTION 72, THE DRAIN COMMISSIONER SHALL
- 27 RECONVENE THE BOARD OF DETERMINATION UNDER SECTION 72. THE BOARD OF

- 1 DETERMINATION SHALL MAKE A NEW DETERMINATION OF WHETHER THE DRAIN
- 2 IS NECESSARY CONSIDERING COST AND PRACTICALITY. THE PROCEDURES FOR
- 3 THE NEW DETERMINATION OF NECESSITY, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO,
- 4 APPEAL AND REVIEW, ARE SUBJECT TO THE SAME REQUIREMENTS AS THE
- 5 INITIAL DETERMINATION OF NECESSITY UNDER CHAPTER 4.
- 6 (5) UNLESS UNDER SUBSECTION (4), IF APPLICABLE, THE BOARD OF
- 7 DETERMINATION DETERMINES THAT THE DRAIN IS NOT NECESSARY
- 8 CONSIDERING COST AND PRACTICALITY, the apportionment of benefits
- 9 and the lands comprised within the special assessment district
- 10 shall be subject to review for at least 1 day. THE REVIEW SHALL BE
- 11 HELD AT THE TIME AND PLACE SPECIFIED IN THE NOTICE OR AT ANOTHER
- 12 TIME AND PLACE TO WHICH THE DRAIN COMMISSIONER MAY ADJOURN THE
- 13 PROCEEDINGS. The review shall be held open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.
- 14 On-FOR the review, the county clerk or the county road commission
- 15 may appear on behalf of the county or a road district; the
- 16 supervisor or commissioner of highways of a township may appear on
- 17 behalf of a township; the mayor or an officer of the city
- 18 designated by the mayor may appear for a city; AND the president
- 19 may appear on behalf of a village. At the review the county drain
- 20 commissioner shall hear the proofs and allegations and shall
- 21 carefully reconsider and review the description of land comprised
- 22 within the special assessment district —AND the several
- 23 descriptions and apportionment of benefits and SHALL define and
- 24 equalize the land as is just and equitable.
- 25 (6) (4) When—IF an apportionment of benefits is made against a
- 26 state trunk line highway, unless the state highway director OF THE
- 27 STATE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT consents in writing to the

- 1 apportionment, the drain commissioner, at least 20 days before the
- 2 DAY OF review, on the trunk line, shall notify by registered mail
- 3 the state highway director OF THE STATE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
- 4 of the percentage apportioned against the highway and the date,
- 5 time, and place fixed for a review of apportionment of benefits. If
- 6 the state highway director OF THE STATE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
- 7 desires to have the apportionment of benefits reviewed by the
- 8 director of the department of agriculture, the state highway
- 9 director OF THE STATE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT, within 10 days
- 10 from the receipt of the notice, shall file with the drain
- 11 commissioner an objection to the apportionment. The drain
- 12 commissioner shall notify the director of the department of
- 13 agriculture of the date, time, and place fixed for the review of
- 14 apportionments, and at the meeting the director of the department
- 15 of agriculture, or a deputy of the director, shall review the
- 16 apportionment made against the state trunk line highway, listen to
- 17 the proofs and allegations of the parties, and may view the highway
- 18 benefited. The action and decision on the apportionment reduced to
- 19 writing shall be final.
- Sec. 221. (1) At the time and place fixed in the notice
- 21 therefor UNDER SECTION 154, the commissioner shall receive bids for
- 22 the construction of the drain. The commissioner may in any case,
- 23 and shall for all drains having an estimated cost exceeding
- 24 \$5,000.00, advertise for sealed proposals, to be opened on the day
- 25 of letting.
- 26 (2) All sealed proposals received by the commissioner shall be
- 27 publicly opened by him THE COMMISSIONER in the meeting and may be

- 1 there examined by any person interested AT THE MEETING. As soon as
- 2 practical after the opening of bids for the construction of any
- 3 drain, the commissioner shall determine the lowest responsible
- 4 bidder and award contracts, or he may reject all proposals and
- 5 readvertise as in the first instance. , and in IN cases where the
- 6 commissioner determined that the taxes assessed for benefits shall
- 7 be collected in more than 1 installment, he—THE COMMISSIONER shall,
- 8 subject to the provisions set forth in section 275, of this act,
- 9 determine the amount, form, maturity, and rate of interest of bonds
- 10 to be issued. In counties having a board of county auditors, no
- 11 drain bonds shall NOT be sold and no-drain contracts SHALL NOT BE
- 12 let without the written consent and approval of the board of county
- 13 auditors , but HOWEVER, the approval of said THE board shall not be
- 14 OF COUNTY AUDITORS IS NOT required in proceedings relative to
- 15 intercounty drains.
- 16 (3) If no-A contract shall be-IS NOT let within 5-2 years
- 17 after the date of filing the petition to locate, establish and
- 18 construct, or deepen, widen, straighten, tile, extend or clean out
- 19 a drain Establish a drainage district and establish and construct a
- 20 DRAIN OR TO MAINTAIN OR IMPROVE A DRAIN, the drain commissioner may
- 21 determine that the petition shall be deemed IS abandoned and no
- 22 ISSUE AN ORDER TO THAT EFFECT. NO further action shall be taken to
- 23 construct the drain. Time during which any litigation shall be IS
- 24 pending to contest the validity of such THE proceedings shall not
- 25 be counted as a part of such 5-year THAT 2-YEAR period. If the
- 26 drain commissioner determines the petition shall be abandoned, he
- 27 shall issue his order to that effect; provided, that such

- 1 determination of abandonment shall not be issued within the 5-year
- 2 period. Notice of the order shall be given by publishing a notice
- 3 PUBLISHED in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. The
- 4 provisions of this THIS section shall apply APPLIES to all
- 5 petitions which are in full force and effect on the date of January
- **6** 1, 1973, or thereafter.
- 7 (4) The board of county road commissioners, when IF authorized
- 8 by a committee of supervisors appointed by the COUNTY board of
- 9 supervisors, is hereby authorized to COMMISSIONERS, MAY bid for the
- 10 construction, cleaning, deepening, and widening of drains within
- 11 the county, and, if such THE bid is accepted, shall be authorized
- 12 to perform the work called for therein—IN THE BID, and MAY receive
- 13 payment therefor FOR THE WORK. A bid tendered by such THE board of
- 14 county road commissioners shall not be accepted unless such THE bid
- 15 shall be IS at least 15% lower than any other bid tendered. The
- 16 moneys MONEY received by the county road commission shall be
- 17 credited to the county road fund, and expenditures incurred by the
- 18 county road commission shall be IN PERFORMING THE WORK ARE proper
- 19 disbursements therefrom FROM THE FUND.

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