

SENATE BILL No. 924

January 31, 2012, Introduced by Senator GLEASON and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, Environment and Great Lakes.

A bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled
"Natural resources and environmental protection act,"
by amending section 501 (MCL 324.501).

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 501. (1) A department of natural resources for this state
2 is created which shall possess the powers and perform the duties
3 granted and imposed by this act and as otherwise provided by law.

4 (2) The commission of natural resources is created as the head
5 of the department of natural resources and may establish general
6 policies related to natural resources management and environmental
7 protection for the guidance of the director. In addition, the
8 commission has appellate authority as provided in section 1101. The

1 commission shall be composed of 7 members, not more than 4 of whom
2 shall be members of the same political party, appointed by the
3 governor by and with the advice and consent of the senate. A member
4 of the commission shall be selected with special reference to that
5 person's training and experience related to at least 1 of the
6 principal lines of activities vested in the department of natural
7 resources and the ability and fitness of that person to deal with
8 those activities. The term of office of each member of the
9 commission shall be 4 years. The governor shall fill a vacancy
10 occurring in the membership of the commission and may remove a
11 member of the commission for cause after a hearing. Each member of
12 the commission shall hold office until the appointment and
13 qualification of that member's successor.

14 (3) The commission, within 30 days after having qualified and
15 annually after that time, shall meet at its office in Lansing and
16 organize by appointing a secretary, who need not be a member of the
17 commission. The governor shall appoint a chairperson of the
18 commission from among its members, who shall serve as chairperson
19 at the pleasure of the governor. Four members of the commission
20 constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The business
21 which the commission may perform shall be conducted at a public
22 meeting of the commission held in compliance with the open meetings
23 act, ~~Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of 1976, being sections 15.261~~
24 ~~to 15.275 of the Michigan Compiled Laws 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 TO~~
25 **16.275.** Public notice of the time, date, and place of the meeting
26 shall be given in the manner required by ~~Act No. 267 of the Public~~
27 ~~Acts of 1976~~ **THAT ACT.** A meeting may be called by the chairperson

1 and shall be called on request of a majority of the members of the
2 commission. A meeting may be held as often as necessary and at
3 other places than the commissioners' offices at Lansing. The
4 commission shall meet at least once each month.

5 (4) ~~The~~ **BEGINNING ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE AMENDATORY ACT**
6 **THAT AMENDED THIS SECTION, THE** commission shall appoint and employ
7 a director who shall continue in office at the pleasure of the
8 commission. The director shall appoint 1 or more deputy directors
9 and other assistants and employees as are necessary to implement
10 this part and any other law of this state affecting the powers and
11 duties of the department. ~~of natural resources.~~ A person to whom
12 the director has lawfully delegated decision making authority in
13 writing may perform a duty or exercise a power conferred by law
14 upon the department at the time and to the extent the duty and
15 power is delegated to that person by the director. When a vacancy
16 in the office of director occurs, or the director is unable to
17 perform the director's duties or is absent from the state, the
18 powers and duties of the director as prescribed by law shall be
19 imposed on and transferred to a deputy director until the vacancy
20 is filled or the director's inability or absence from the state
21 ceases.

22 (5) The compensation of the deputy directors, the assistants,
23 and the employees and the number of assistants and employees shall
24 be subject to the approval of the state administrative board. The
25 members of the commission shall not receive compensation under this
26 part, but each member and the other officers and employees of the
27 department ~~of natural resources~~ shall be entitled to reasonable

1 expenses while traveling in the performance of their duties
2 prescribed by this act. The salaries and expenses authorized under
3 this act shall be paid out of the state treasury in the same manner
4 as the salaries of other state officers and employees are paid. The
5 department of **TECHNOLOGY**, management, and budget shall furnish
6 suitable offices and office equipment, at Lansing, for the use of
7 the department. ~~of natural resources.~~ Each member of the commission
8 and the director shall qualify by taking and subscribing to the
9 constitutional oath of office and by filing it in the office of the
10 secretary of state.