

HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 627

A bill to provide for the recovery or replacement of durable monuments defining the Michigan-Indiana state line; to create a commission; to provide for the powers and duties of certain state and local governmental officers and agencies; and to repeal acts and parts of acts.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. This act may be cited as the "Michigan-Indiana state
2 line remonumentation act".

3 Sec. 3. As used in this act:

4 (a) "Commission" means the Michigan-Indiana state line
5 commission established in section 5(1).

6 (b) "County peer review group" means a county peer review
7 group appointed under section 9b of the state survey and

1 remonumentation act, 1990 PA 345, MCL 54.269b.

2 (c) "Department" means the department of licensing and
3 regulatory affairs.

4 (d) "Monument" means a relatively permanent physical marker
5 that occupies the position of a corner and that possesses or is
6 made to possess a magnetic field.

7 Sec. 5. (1) The Michigan-Indiana state line commission is
8 established in the department of licensing and regulatory affairs.

9 (2) The commission shall consist of 5 surveyors licensed in
10 this state, 1 of whom is a resident of each of the following
11 counties:

12 (a) Berrien County.

13 (b) Cass County.

14 (c) St. Joseph County.

15 (d) Branch County.

16 (e) Hillsdale County.

17 (3) The governor shall appoint members of the commission, by
18 and with the advice and consent of the senate. The governor shall
19 consider for appointment individuals previously appointed to the
20 Indiana-Michigan boundary line commission pursuant to former 2010
21 PA 259.

22 (4) The term of a member of the commission is 2 years or until
23 a successor is appointed, whichever is later.

24 (5) If a vacancy occurs on the commission, the governor,
25 subject to subsection (3), shall appoint an individual to fill the
26 vacancy for the balance of the term.

27 (6) The governor may remove a member of the commission for
28 incompetence, dereliction of duty, malfeasance, misfeasance, or
29 nonfeasance in office, or any other good cause.

1 (7) The first meeting of the commission shall be called by a
2 majority of the members of the commission. The first meeting shall
3 be held not later than June 15, 2022. At the first meeting, the
4 commission shall elect from among its members a chairperson and
5 other officers as it considers necessary or appropriate. After the
6 first meeting, the commission shall meet at least quarterly, or
7 more frequently at the call of the chairperson or if requested by 3
8 or more members.

9 (8) A majority of the members of the commission constitute a
10 quorum for transacting business. A vote in favor by a majority of
11 the members serving is required for any action of the commission.

12 (9) The commission shall conduct its business in compliance
13 with the open meetings act, 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 to 15.275.

14 (10) A writing that is prepared, owned, used, possessed, or
15 retained by the commission in performing an official function is
16 subject to the freedom of information act, 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231
17 to 15.246.

18 (11) A member of the commission is not entitled to
19 compensation for service on the commission but may be reimbursed
20 for actual and necessary expenses incurred in serving.

21 Sec. 7. (1) Subject to subsection (2), the commission shall do
22 all of the following:

23 (a) Administer a survey and remonumentation of the Michigan-
24 Indiana state line.

25 (b) Recover or reestablish monuments at the mileposts and
26 intermediate monument control points of the Michigan-Indiana state
27 line as established in the 1827 federal survey that defined that
28 line. The commission also shall recover or reestablish monuments at
29 the posts originally set at or near the shores of lakes and large

1 rivers of the Michigan-Indiana state line as established in the
2 1827 federal survey, or witness corners for set posts. The
3 commission shall review the survey upon completion of each
4 milepost.

5 (c) Compile appropriate records and documents verifying the
6 location of the mileposts and submit those records and documents to
7 the respective county peer review groups.

8 (d) Resolve any differences revealed by the survey between
9 record documents and recovered evidence regarding the location of
10 mileposts defining the Michigan-Indiana state line.

11 (e) Provide regular updates to the department's office of land
12 survey and remonumentation.

13 (2) The director of the department's office of land survey and
14 remonumentation shall keep the state survey and remonumentation
15 commission created under section 3 of the state survey and
16 remonumentation act, 1990 PA 345, MCL 54.263, apprised of the
17 Michigan-Indiana state line commission's progress in discharging
18 its duties under subsection (1).

19 (3) The commission shall not replace lost corner positions if
20 the state of Indiana does not participate in the survey and
21 remonumentation project as authorized by Indiana law.

22 (4) To accomplish the purposes of this act, the commission or
23 its representative may meet and collaborate with a similar
24 commission established by the state of Indiana or that commission's
25 representative.

26 Sec. 9. (1) Upon completion of the survey and remonumentation,
27 the commission shall do both of the following:

28 (a) Submit the survey to the legislature of this state. The
29 survey shall be accompanied by a report of the commission that

1 states whether there are differences between the survey and the
2 survey of a similar commission established by the state of Indiana
3 and explains any differences.

4 (b) For each post originally set at or near the shore of a
5 lake or large river or milepost determined under this act, the
6 commission shall do both of the following:

7 (i) File with the appropriate county register of deeds a land
8 corner recordation certificate under the state corner recordation
9 act, 1970 PA 74, MCL 54.201 to 54.210d, that provides appropriate
10 references and Michigan state plane coordinates.

11 (ii) File a copy of the certificate under subdivision (a) with
12 the state survey and remonumentation commission created under
13 section 3 of the state survey and remonumentation act, 1990 PA 345,
14 MCL 54.263.

15 Sec. 11. The commission shall procure professional surveying
16 services through negotiated contracts. The commission shall award
17 contracts only to persons incorporated in this state or with a
18 principal place of business in this state.

19 Sec. 13. This act is repealed effective January 1, 2026.

20 Enacting section 1. This act takes effect 60 days after the
21 date it is enacted into law.