

HOUSE BILL NO. 6218

June 14, 2022, Introduced by Rep. Cambensy and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation.

A bill to amend 2012 PA 411, entitled
"Rural development fund act,"
by amending the title and section 7 (MCL 286.947) and by adding
section 6a.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 TITLE
2 An act to establish certain programs that promote the
3 sustainability of land-based industries and support infrastructure
4 that benefits rural communities; to establish a fund and provide
5 for its use; **to make certain loans, grants, and investments;** and to

1 prescribe the powers and duties of certain state agencies and
2 officials.

3 Sec. 6a. (1) The department shall create and operate a
4 nonferrous mining research grant program as provided in this
5 section.

6 (2) The grant program must meet both of the following
7 requirements:

8 (a) Grants must be made only to public colleges and
9 universities located in this state that have a focus on mining,
10 geology, or a related scientific or technological field.

11 (b) Grants must be used for qualified research projects.

12 (3) The department, with the advice of the board, shall create
13 an application process, selection criteria, and a grant dispersal
14 process for the grant program and post the application process,
15 selection criteria, and grant dispersal process on the department's
16 website.

17 (4) As used in this section:

18 (a) "Grant program" means the nonferrous mining research grant
19 program created under subsection (1).

20 (b) "Nonferrous metallic mineral" means that term as defined
21 in section 63201 of the natural resources and environmental
22 protection act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.63201.

23 (c) "Public college or university" means a college or
24 university described in section 4, 5, or 6 of article VIII of the
25 state constitution of 1963.

26 (d) "Qualified research project" means a research and
27 development project that advances knowledge regarding the
28 processing or reclamation of nonferrous metallic minerals or other
29 activities related to the mining of nonferrous metallic minerals.

1 Sec. 7. (1) Money in the fund shall be expended, upon
2 legislative appropriation, for all of the following:

3 (a) Grants, loans, and loan guarantees to fund projects
4 identified under subsection (3).

5 (b) Administrative expenses of the department in implementing
6 this act.

7 (c) Not more than \$250,000.00 of the revenue received during
8 each state fiscal year may be transferred to the nonferrous
9 metallic mineral surveillance fund created in section 63217 of the
10 natural resources and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451,
11 MCL 324.63217.

12 **(d) Not less than \$100,000.00 of the revenue received during**
13 **each state fiscal year must be used to fund the nonferrous mining**
14 **research grant program created under section 6a.**

15 (2) The department shall solicit requests for project
16 proposals to be funded with money from the fund from individuals,
17 organizations, businesses, local units of government, federally
18 recognized tribes, and educational institutions.

19 (3) The department, with the advice of the board, shall
20 determine which projects should be funded with money from the fund
21 **under subsection (1) (a)**, based on the criteria established by the
22 board under section 6. However, money from the fund shall not be
23 expended for any of the following:

24 (a) Projects that include telecommunication facilities owned
25 or operated by an educational institution or an affiliate, a local
26 unit of government, or any other governmental entity.

27 (b) The construction of telecommunication facilities or
28 wireless telecommunication facilities in areas where broadband
29 service of at least 3 mbps downstream and 768 kbps upstream is

1 available.

2 (4) Grants from the fund may be used to provide matching funds

3 for other available grants, as allowed by law.