

**NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT (EXCERPT)**  
**Act 451 of 1994**

**PART 323**

**SHORELANDS PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT**

**324.32301 Definitions.**

Sec. 32301. As used in this part:

- (a) "Connecting waterway" means the St. Marys river, Detroit river, St. Clair river, or Lake St. Clair.
- (b) "Environmental area" means an area of the shoreland determined by the department on the basis of studies and surveys to be necessary for the preservation and maintenance of fish and wildlife.
- (c) "High-risk area" means an area of the shoreland that is determined by the department on the basis of studies and surveys to be subject to erosion.
- (d) "Land to be zoned or regulated" or "land to be zoned" means the land in this state that borders or is adjacent to a Great Lake or a connecting waterway and that, except for flood risk areas, is situated within 1,000 feet landward from the ordinary high-water mark as defined in section 32501, land bordering or adjacent to waters affected by levels of the Great Lakes landward of the ordinary high-water mark as defined by section 30101, and land between the ordinary high-water mark and the water's edge.
- (e) "Shoreland" means the land, water, and land beneath the water that is in close proximity to the shoreline of a Great Lake or a connecting waterway.
- (f) "Shoreline" means that area of the shorelands where land and water meet.
- (g) "Flood risk area" means the area of the shoreland that is determined by the department on the basis of studies and surveys to be subject to flooding from effects of levels of the Great Lakes and is not limited to 1,000 feet.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995;—Am. 2018, Act 631, Eff. Mar. 29, 2019.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of authority, powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities of the Land and Water Management Division, with the exception of the farmland and open space preservation program, natural rivers program, and Michigan information resource inventory system, to the Director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, see E.R.O. No. 1995-16, compiled at MCL 324.99901 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**Popular name:** NREPA

**324.32302 Shoreland engineering study; determinations.**

Sec. 32302. By April 1, 1972, the department shall make or cause to be made an engineering study of the shoreland to determine all of the following:

- (a) The high-risk areas.
- (b) The areas of the shorelands that are platted or have buildings or structures and that require protection from erosion.
- (c) The type of protection that is best suited for an area determined in subdivision (b).
- (d) A cost estimate of the construction and maintenance for each type of protection determined in subdivision (c).

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of authority, powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities of the Land and Water Management Division, with the exception of the farmland and open space preservation program, natural rivers program, and Michigan information resource inventory system, to the Director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, see E.R.O. No. 1995-16, compiled at MCL 324.99901 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**Popular name:** NREPA

**324.32303 Engineering study.**

Sec. 32303. Before January 1, 1975, the department shall make or cause to be made an engineering study of the shoreland to determine:

- (a) Flood risk areas.
- (b) The frequency with which a flood risk area can be expected to be flooded.
- (c) Appropriate rules necessary to prevent damage or destruction to property.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**Popular name:** NREPA

**324.32304 Environmental study.**

Sec. 32304. By April 1, 1972, the department shall make or cause to be made an environmental study of the shoreland to determine all of the following:

(a) The environmental areas.

(b) The areas of marshes along and adjacent to the shorelands.

(c) The marshes and fish and wildlife habitat areas that should be protected by shoreland zoning or regulation.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**Popular name:** NREPA

**324.32305 Use of high risk area; prevention of property loss; notice of determinations and recommendations.**

Sec. 32305. The department pursuant to section 32302 shall determine if the use of a high-risk area shall be regulated to prevent property loss or if suitable methods of protection shall be installed to prevent property loss. The department shall notify a local unit of government, the department of labor, the department of treasury, and the department of commerce or other affected state agencies of its determinations and recommendations relative to a high-risk area that is in a local unit of government.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**Popular name:** NREPA

**324.32306 Use of flood risk area; prevention of property loss; notice of determinations and recommendations.**

Sec. 32306. The department pursuant to section 32303 shall determine if the use of a flood risk area shall be regulated to prevent property loss or if suitable methods of protection shall be installed to prevent property loss. The department shall notify a local unit of government, the department of labor, the department of treasury, and the department of commerce or other affected state agencies of its determinations and recommendations relative to a flood risk area that is in a local unit of government.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**Popular name:** NREPA

**324.32307 Environmental area; use; regulation.**

Sec. 32307. The department in accordance with section 32304 shall notify a local unit of government of the existence of any environmental area that is in a local unit of government and shall formulate appropriate use regulations necessary to protect an environmental area.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**Popular name:** NREPA

**324.32308 County zoning.**

Sec. 32308. Until July 1, 1975, a county, pursuant to rules promulgated under section 32313 and the county rural zoning enabling act, Act No. 183 of the Public Acts of 1943, being sections 125.201 to 125.232 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, may zone any shoreland and land to be zoned that is in the county.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**Popular name:** NREPA

**324.32309 City or village zoning.**

Sec. 32309. Until July 1, 1975, a city or village, pursuant to rules promulgated under section 32313 and Act No. 207 of the Public Acts of 1921, being sections 125.581 to 125.592 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, may zone any shoreland and land to be zoned that is in the city or village.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**Popular name:** NREPA

### **324.32310 Township zoning.**

Sec. 32310. Until July 1, 1975, a township, pursuant to rules promulgated under section 32313 and the township rural zoning act, Act No. 184 of the Public Acts of 1943, being sections 125.271 to 125.301 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, may zone any shoreland and land to be zoned that is in the township.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**Popular name:** NREPA

### **324.32311 Approval or disapproval of zoning ordinance regulating high risk area, flood risk area, or environmental area.**

Sec. 32311. An existing zoning ordinance or a zoning ordinance or a modification or amendment to a zoning ordinance that regulates a high-risk area, a flood risk area, or an environmental area shall be submitted to the department for approval or disapproval. The department shall determine if the ordinance, modification, or amendment adequately prevents property damage or prevents damage to an environmental area, a high-risk area, or a flood risk area. If an ordinance, modification, or amendment is disapproved by the department, it shall not have force or effect until modified by the local unit of government and approved by the department.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**Popular name:** NREPA

### **324.32312 Rules; fee required with permit application or project; disposition of fees; violation; restraining order.**

Sec. 32312. (1) To regulate the uses and development of high-risk areas, flood risk areas, and environmental areas and to implement the purposes of this part, the department shall promulgate rules. If permits are required under rules promulgated under this part, the permits must be issued pursuant to the rules and part 13. Except as provided under subsection (2), until October 1, 2025, if permits are required pursuant to rules promulgated under this part, an application for a permit must be accompanied by a fee as follows:

(a) For a commercial or multifamily residential project, \$500.00.

(b) For a single-family home construction, \$100.00.

(c) For an addition to an existing single-family home or for a project that has a minor impact on fish and wildlife resources in environmental areas as determined by the department, \$50.00.

(2) A project that requires review and approval under this part and under 1 or more of the following is subject to only the single highest permit fee required under this part or the following:

(a) Part 301.

(b) Part 303.

(c) Part 325.

(d) Section 3104.

(e) Section 117 of the land division act, 1967 PA 288, MCL 560.117.

(3) The department shall forward fees collected under this section to the state treasurer for deposit in the land and water management permit fee fund created in section 30113.

(4) A circuit court, upon petition and a showing by the department that a rule promulgated under subsection (1) has been violated, shall issue any necessary order to the defendant to correct the violation or to restrain the defendant from further violation of the rule.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995;—Am. 1995, Act 168, Imd. Eff. Oct. 9, 1995;—Am. 1999, Act 106, Imd. Eff. July 7, 1999;—Am. 2003, Act 163, Imd. Eff. Aug. 12, 2003;—Am. 2004, Act 325, Imd. Eff. Sept. 10, 2004;—Am. 2008, Act 276, Imd. Eff. Sept. 29, 2008;—Am. 2011, Act 90, Imd. Eff. July 15, 2011;—Am. 2015, Act 76, Eff. Oct. 1, 2015;—Am. 2019, Act 84, Imd. Eff. Sept. 30, 2019;—Am. 2021, Act 91, Imd. Eff. Oct. 20, 2021.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**Popular name:** NREPA

**Administrative rules:** R 281.21 et seq. of the Michigan Administrative Code.

### **324.32312a Construction of above grade walls with movable brick.**

Sec. 32312a. Notwithstanding any other provision of this part or the rules promulgated under this part, the department shall allow above grade walls to be constructed with movable brick.

**History:** Add. 1997, Act 126, Imd. Eff. Nov. 5, 1997.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**Popular name:** NREPA

### **324.32313 Use and management plan; contents; hearings; submission of plan copies to governor and legislature.**

Sec. 32313. (1) By October 1, 1972, the department shall, in compliance with the purposes of this part, prepare a plan for the use and management of shoreland. The plan shall include but not be limited to all of the following:

(a) An inventory and identification of the use and development characteristics of the shoreland; the general physical and man-influenced shoreline features; the existing and proposed municipal and industrial water intakes and sewage and industrial waste outfalls; and high-risk areas and environmental areas.

(b) An inventory of existing federal, state, regional, and local plans for the management of the shorelands.

(c) An identification of problems associated with shoreland use, development, conservation, and protection.

(d) A provision for a continuing inventory of shoreland and estuarine resources.

(e) Provisions for further studies and research pertaining to shoreland management.

(f) Identification of the high-risk and environmental areas that need protection.

(g) Recommendations that do all of the following:

(i) Provide procedures for the resolution of conflicts arising from multiple use.

(ii) Foster the widest variety of beneficial uses.

(iii) Provide for the necessary enforcement powers to assure compliance with plans and to resolve conflicts in uses.

(iv) Provide criteria for the protection of shorelands from erosion or inundation, for aquatic recreation, for shore growth and cover, for low-lying lands, and for fish and game management.

(v) Provide criteria for shoreland layout for residential, industrial, and commercial development, and shoreline alteration control.

(vi) Provide for building setbacks from the water.

(vii) Provide for the prevention of shoreland littering, blight harbor development, and pollution.

(viii) Provide for the regulation of mineral exploration and production.

(ix) Provide the basis for necessary future legislation pertaining to efficient shoreland management.

(2) Upon completion of the plan, the department shall hold regional public hearings on the recommendations of the plan. Copies of the plan shall be submitted with the hearing records to the governor and the legislature.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**Popular name:** NREPA

### **324.32314 Agreements and contracts.**

Sec. 32314. The department may enter into an agreement or make contracts with the federal government, other state agencies, local units of government, or private agencies for the purposes of making studies and plans for the efficient use, development, preservation, or management of the state's shoreland resources. Any study, plan, or recommendation shall be available to a local unit of government in this state that has shoreland. The recommendations and policies set forth in the studies or plans shall serve as a basis and guideline for establishing zoning ordinances and developing shoreland plans by local units of government and the department.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**Popular name:** NREPA

### **324.32315 Money, grants, or grants-in-aid; purpose.**

Sec. 32315. For the purposes of this part, the department may receive, obtain, or accept money, grants, or grants-in-aid for the purpose of research, planning, or management of shoreland.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**Popular name:** NREPA