

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

**ABORIGINAL RECORDS AND ANTIQUITIES AND ABANDONED PROPERTY**

**PART 761**

**ABORIGINAL RECORDS AND ANTIQUITIES**

**324.76101 Definitions.**

Sec. 76101. As used in this part:

(a) "Abandoned property" means an aircraft; a watercraft, including a ship, boat, canoe, skiff, raft, or barge; the rigging, gear, fittings, trappings, and equipment of an aircraft or watercraft; the personal property of the officers, crew, and passengers of an aircraft or watercraft; and the cargo of an aircraft or watercraft, which have been deserted, relinquished, cast away, or left behind and for which attempts at reclamation have been abandoned by owners and insurers. Abandoned property also means materials resulting from activities of historic and prehistoric Native Americans.

(b) "Bottomlands" means the unpatented lake bottomlands of the Great Lakes.

(c) "Committee" means the underwater salvage and preserve committee created in section 76103.

(d) "Great Lakes" means lakes Erie, Huron, Michigan, St. Clair, and Superior.

(e) "Great Lakes bottomlands preserve" means an area located on the bottomlands of the Great Lakes and extending upward to and including the surface of the water, which is delineated and set aside by rule for special protection of abandoned property of historical value, or ecological, educational, geological, or scenic features or formations having recreational, educational, or scientific value. A preserve may encompass a single object, feature, or formation, or a collection of several objects, features, or formations.

(f) "Historical value" means value relating to, or illustrative of, Michigan history, including the statehood, territorial, colonial, and historic, and prehistoric native American periods.

(g) "Mechanical or other assistance" means all humanmade devices, including pry bars, wrenches and other hand or power tools, cutting torches, explosives, winches, flotation bags, lines to surface, extra divers buoyancy devices, and other buoyance devices, used to raise or remove artifacts.

(h) "Recreational value" means value relating to an activity that the public engages in, or may engage in, for recreation or sport, including scuba diving and fishing.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 58, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of powers and duties relating to promotion of history and the preservation of the state's historical resources to the department of natural resources, see E.R.O. No. 2009-26, compiled at MCL 399.752.

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**324.76102 Aboriginal records and antiquities; right to explore, survey, excavate, and regulate reserved to state; possessory right or title to abandoned property.**

Sec. 76102. (1) The state reserves to itself the exclusive right and privilege, except as provided in this part, of exploring, surveying, excavating, and regulating through its authorized officers, agents, and employees, all aboriginal records and other antiquities, including mounds, earthworks, forts, burial and village sites, mines or other relics, and abandoned property of historical or recreational value found upon or within any of the lands owned by or under the control of the state.

(2) The state reserves to itself a possessory right or title superior to that of a finder to abandoned property of historical or recreational value found on the state owned bottomlands of the Great Lakes. This property shall belong to this state with administration and protection jointly vested in the department and the department of history, arts, and libraries.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 58, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995;—Am. 2001, Act 75, Imd. Eff. July 24, 2001.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of powers and duties relating to promotion of history and the preservation of the state's historical resources to the department of natural resources, see E.R.O. No. 2009-26, compiled at MCL 399.752.

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**324.76103 Underwater salvage and preserve committee; creation; purpose; appointment, qualifications, and terms of members; vacancy; compensation; appointment, term, and duties of chairperson; committee as advisory body; functions of committee; limitation.**

Sec. 76103. (1) The underwater salvage and preserve committee is created in the department to provide

technical and other advice to the department and the department of history, arts, and libraries with respect to their responsibilities under this part.

(2) The underwater salvage and preserve committee shall consist of 9 members appointed as follows:

(a) Two individuals appointed by the department who have primary responsibility in the department for administering this part.

(b) Two individuals appointed by the director of the department of history, arts, and libraries who have primary responsibility in the department of history, arts, and libraries for administering this part.

(c) Five individuals appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate from the general public. Two of these individuals shall have experience in recreational scuba diving.

(3) An individual appointed to the committee shall serve for a term of 3 years. A vacancy on the committee shall be filled in the same manner as an original appointment and the term of a member appointed to fill a vacancy shall be for 3 years. Members of the committee shall serve without compensation, except for their regular state salary where applicable.

(4) The chairperson of the committee shall alternate between the representatives from the department and the department of history, arts, and libraries. The chairperson shall be designated by the department or the director of the department of history, arts, and libraries, whichever is applicable from among his or her representatives on the committee. The chairperson's term shall run for 12 months, from October 1 through September 30. The department shall appoint the first chairperson of the committee for a term ending September 30, 1989. The chairperson shall call meetings as necessary but not less than 4 times per year, set the agenda for meetings, ensure that adequate minutes are taken, and file an annual report of committee proceedings with the head of the department of natural resources and the director of the department of history, arts, and libraries.

(5) The committee is an advisory body and may perform all of the following functions:

(a) Make recommendations with regard to the creation and boundaries of Great Lakes underwater preserves.

(b) Review applications for underwater salvage permits and make recommendations regarding issuance.

(c) Consider and make recommendations regarding the charging of permit fees and the appropriate use of revenue generated by those fees.

(d) Consider the need for and the content of rules intended to implement this part and make recommendations concerning the promulgation of rules.

(e) Consider and make recommendations concerning appropriate legislation.

(f) Consider and make recommendations concerning program operation.

(6) The committee shall not replace or supersede the responsibility or authority of the department of history, arts, and libraries or the department to carry out their responsibilities under this part.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 58, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995;—Am. 2001, Act 75, Imd. Eff. July 24, 2001.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of powers and duties relating to promotion of history and the preservation of the state's historical resources to the department of natural resources, see E.R.O. No. 2009-26, compiled at MCL 399.752.

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### **324.76104 Deed; clause reserving to state property and exploration rights in aboriginal antiquities; exceptions; waiver.**

Sec. 76104. A deed, as provided by this part, given by this state, except state tax deeds for the conveyance of any land owned by the state, shall contain a clause reserving to this state a property right in aboriginal antiquities including mounds, earthworks, forts, burial and village sites, mines, or other relics and also reserving the right to explore and excavate for the aboriginal antiquity by and through this state's authorized agent and employee. This section applies only to the sale of tax reverted land. The department, with the approval of the department of history, arts, and libraries, may waive this reservation when conveying platted property and when making conveyances under subpart 3 of part 21.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 58, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995;—Am. 2001, Act 75, Imd. Eff. July 24, 2001.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of powers and duties relating to promotion of history and the preservation of the state's historical resources to the department of natural resources, see E.R.O. No. 2009-26, compiled at MCL 399.752.

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### **324.76105 Permit for exploration or excavation of aboriginal remain; exception.**

Sec. 76105. (1) A person, either personally or through an agent or employee, shall not explore or excavate an aboriginal remain covered by this part upon lands owned by the state, except as authorized by a permit

issued by the department, with written approval of the department of history, arts, and libraries, pursuant to part 13. A permit shall be issued without charge.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to the Mackinac Island state park commission on lands owned or controlled by the Mackinac Island state park commission.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 58, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995;—Am. 2001, Act 75, Imd. Eff. July 24, 2001;—Am. 2004, Act 325, Imd. Eff. Sept. 10, 2004.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of powers and duties relating to promotion of history and the preservation of the state's historical resources to the department of natural resources, see E.R.O. No. 2009-26, compiled at MCL 399.752.

**Popular name:** Act 451

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### **324.76106 Removal of relics or records of antiquity; consent of landowner required.**

Sec. 76106. Without the consent of the land owner, a person shall not remove any relics or records of antiquity such as human or other bones; shells, stone, bone, or copper implements; pottery or shards of pottery, or similar artifacts and objects from the premises where they have been discovered.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 58, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of powers and duties relating to promotion of history and the preservation of the state's historical resources to the department of natural resources, see E.R.O. No. 2009-26, compiled at MCL 399.752.

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### **324.76107 Permit to recover, alter, or destroy abandoned property; recovered property as property of department of history, arts, and libraries; prohibitions as to human body or remains; violation; penalty; prior convictions.**

Sec. 76107. (1) Except as provided in section 76108, a person shall not recover, alter, or destroy abandoned property which is in, on, under, or over the bottomlands of the Great Lakes, including those within a Great Lakes bottomlands preserve, unless the person has a permit issued jointly by the department of history, arts, and libraries and the department under section 76109.

(2) A person who recovers abandoned property without a permit when a permit is required by this part shall transmit the property to the department of history, arts, and libraries and the recovered property shall be the property of the department of history, arts, and libraries.

(3) A person shall not remove, convey, mutilate, or deface a human body or the remains of a human body located on the bottomlands of the Great Lakes. This subsection does not apply to a person who removes or conveys a human body or the remains of a human body pursuant to a court order, pursuant to the written consent of the decedent's next of kin if the decedent's death occurred less than 100 years before the removal or conveying, or to a person who removes or conveys the body for law enforcement, medical, archaeological, or scientific purposes. A person who violates this subsection is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 10 years or a fine of not more than \$5,000.00, or both.

(4) A person who violates subsection (1) is guilty of a crime as follows:

(a) If the value of the property is less than \$200.00, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 93 days or a fine of not more than \$500.00, or 3 times the aggregate value of the property involved, whichever is greater, or both imprisonment and a fine.

(b) If any of the following apply, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 1 year or a fine of not more than \$2,000.00 or 3 times the value of the property involved, whichever is greater, or both imprisonment and a fine:

(i) The value of the property involved is \$200.00 or more but less than \$1,000.00.

(ii) The person violates subdivision (a) and has 1 or more prior convictions for committing or attempting to commit an offense under this section.

(c) If any of the following apply, the person is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 5 years or a fine of not more than \$10,000.00 or 3 times the value of the property involved, whichever is greater, or both imprisonment and a fine:

(i) The value of the property involved is \$1,000.00 or more but less than \$20,000.00.

(ii) The person violates subdivision (b)(i) and has 1 or more prior convictions for violating or attempting to violate this section. For purposes of this subparagraph, however, a prior conviction does not include a conviction for a violation or attempted violation of subdivision (a) or (b)(ii).

(d) If any of the following apply, the person is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 10 years or a fine of not more than \$15,000.00 or 3 times the value of the property involved, whichever is greater, or both imprisonment and a fine:

- (i) The property involved has a value of \$20,000.00 or more.
  - (ii) The person violates subdivision (c)(i) and has 2 or more prior convictions for committing or attempting to commit an offense under this section. For purposes of this subparagraph, however, a prior conviction does not include a conviction for a violation or attempted violation of subdivision (a) or (b)(ii).
- (5) The values of property recovered or destroyed in separate incidents pursuant to a scheme or course of conduct within any 12-month period may be aggregated to determine the total value of the property recovered or destroyed.
- (6) If the prosecuting attorney intends to seek an enhanced sentence based upon the defendant having 1 or more prior convictions, the prosecuting attorney shall include on the complaint and information a statement listing the prior conviction or convictions. The existence of the defendant's prior conviction or convictions shall be determined by the court, without a jury, at sentencing or at a separate hearing for that purpose before sentencing. The existence of a prior conviction may be established by any evidence relevant for that purpose, including, but not limited to, 1 or more of the following:
- (a) A copy of the judgment of conviction.
  - (b) A transcript of a prior trial, plea-taking, or sentencing.
  - (c) Information contained in a presentence report.
  - (d) The defendant's statement.
- (7) If the sentence for a conviction under this section is enhanced by 1 or more prior convictions, those prior convictions shall not be used to further enhance the sentence for the conviction pursuant to section 10, 11, or 12 of chapter IX of the code of criminal procedure, 1927 PA 175, MCL 769.10, 769.11, and 769.12.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 58, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995;—Am. 2001, Act 75, Imd. Eff. July 24, 2001;—Am. 2001, Act 155, Eff. Jan. 1, 2002.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of powers and duties relating to promotion of history and the preservation of the state's historical resources to the department of natural resources, see E.R.O. No. 2009-26, compiled at MCL 399.752.

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### **324.76108 Recovery of abandoned property without permit; report; availability of recovered property for inspection; release of property.**

Sec. 76108. (1) A person may recover abandoned property outside a Great Lakes bottomlands preserve without a permit if the abandoned property is not attached to, nor located on, in, or located in the immediate vicinity of and associated with a sunken aircraft or watercraft and if the abandoned property is recoverable by hand without mechanical or other assistance.

(2) A person who recovers abandoned property valued at more than \$10.00 without a permit pursuant to subsection (1) shall file a written report within 30 days after removal of the property with the department or the department of history, arts, and libraries if the property has been abandoned for more than 30 years. The written report shall list all recovered property that has been abandoned for more than 30 years and the location of the property at the time of recovery. For a period of 90 days after the report is filed, the person shall make the recovered property available to the department and the department of history, arts, and libraries for inspection at a location in this state. If the department of history, arts, and libraries determines that the recovered property does not have historical value, the department of history, arts, and libraries shall release the property to the person by means of a written instrument.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 58, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995;—Am. 2001, Act 75, Imd. Eff. July 24, 2001.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of powers and duties relating to promotion of history and the preservation of the state's historical resources to the department of natural resources, see E.R.O. No. 2009-26, compiled at MCL 399.752.

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### **324.76109 Recovery of abandoned property; permit; scope; application; filing, form, and contents; additional information or documents; approval or disapproval of application; conditions; payment of salvage costs; recovery of cargo outside Great Lakes bottomlands preserves; administrative review; conduct of hearing; combined appeals; joint decision and order; duration of permit; issuance of new permit; transfer or assignment of permit.**

Sec. 76109. (1) A person shall not recover abandoned property located on, in, or located in the immediate vicinity of and associated with a sunken aircraft or watercraft except as authorized by a permit issued by the department and the department of history, arts, and libraries pursuant to part 13.

(2) Notwithstanding section 1303(1), a person shall file an application for a permit with the department on

a form prescribed by the department and approved by the department of history, arts, and libraries. The application shall contain all of the following information:

- (a) The name and address of the applicant.
- (b) The name, if known, of the watercraft or aircraft on or around which recovery operations are to occur and a current photograph or drawing of the watercraft or aircraft, if available.
- (c) The location of the abandoned property to be recovered and the depth of water in which it may be found.
- (d) A description of each item to be recovered.
- (e) The method to be used in recovery operations.
- (f) The proposed disposition of the abandoned property recovered, including the location at which it will be available for inspection by the department and the department of history, arts, and libraries.
- (g) Other information which the department or the department of history, arts, and libraries considers necessary in evaluating the request for a permit.

(3) An application for a permit is not complete until all information requested on the application form and any other information requested by the department or the department of history, arts, and libraries has been received by the department. After receipt of an otherwise complete application, the department may request additional information or documents as are determined to be necessary to make a decision to grant or deny a permit.

(4) The department and the department of history, arts, and libraries shall approve or deny an application for a permit with the advice of the committee. A condition to the approval of an application shall be in writing on the face of the permit. The department and the department of history, arts, and libraries may impose such conditions as are considered reasonable and necessary to protect the public trust and general interests, including conditions that accomplish 1 or more of the following:

- (a) Protect and preserve the abandoned property to be recovered, and the recreational value of the area in which recovery is being accomplished.
- (b) Assure reasonable public access to the abandoned property after recovery.
- (c) Conform with rules applying to activities within a Great Lakes bottomlands preserve.
- (d) Prohibit injury, harm, and damage to a bottomlands site or abandoned property not authorized for removal during and after salvage operations by the permit holder.
- (e) Prohibit or limit the amount of discharge of possible pollutants, such as floating timbers, planking, and other debris, which may emanate from the shipwreck, plane wreck, or salvage equipment.
- (f) Require the permit holder to submit a specific removal plan prior to commencing any salvaging activities. Among other matters considered appropriate by either the department or the department of history, arts, and libraries, or both, the removal plan may be required to ensure the safety of those removing or assisting in the removal of the abandoned property and to address how the permit holder proposes to prevent, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse effects upon the abandoned property to be removed, that portion of the abandoned property which is not to be removed, and the surrounding geographic features.

(5) The department shall approve an application for a permit unless the department determines that the abandoned property to be recovered has substantial recreational value in itself or in conjunction with other abandoned property in its vicinity underwater, or the recovery of abandoned property would not comply with rules applying to a Great Lakes bottomlands preserve.

(6) The department of history, arts, and libraries shall approve the application for a permit unless the department of history, arts, and libraries determines that the abandoned property to be recovered has substantial historical value in itself or in conjunction with other abandoned property in its vicinity. If the property has substantial historical value, the department of history, arts, and libraries, pursuant to subsection (4), may impose a condition on the permit requiring the permittee to turn over recovered property to the department of history, arts, and libraries for the purpose of preserving the property or permitting public access to the property. The department of history, arts, and libraries may authorize the display of the property in a public or private museum or by a local unit of government. In addition to the conditions authorized by subsection (4), the department of history, arts, and libraries may provide for payment of salvage costs in connection with the recovery of the abandoned property.

(7) A person shall not recover cargo situated on, in, or associated with an abandoned watercraft that is located outside of a Great Lakes bottomlands preserve except as authorized by a permit issued pursuant to this section and part 13. Subject to subsection (4), the permit shall be issued to the first person applying for the permit. However, only the person who discovered the abandoned watercraft may apply for a permit during the first 90 days after the discovery. When a watercraft containing cargo is simultaneously discovered by more than 1 person, a permit shall be approved with respect to the first person or persons jointly applying for a permit.



(8) A person aggrieved by a condition contained on a permit or by the denial of an application for a permit may request an administrative review of the condition or the denial by the commission or the department of history, arts, and libraries, whichever disapproves the application or imposes the condition. A person shall file the request for review with the commission or the department of history, arts, and libraries, whichever is applicable, within 90 days after the permit application is submitted to the department. An administrative hearing conducted pursuant to this subsection shall be conducted under the procedures set forth in chapter 4 of the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.271 to 24.287. If neither the department nor the department of history, arts, and libraries approves the application and an administrative review is requested from both the commission and the department of history, arts, and libraries, the appeals shall be combined upon request of the appellant or either the commission or the department of history, arts, and libraries and a single administrative hearing shall be conducted. The commission and the department of history, arts, and libraries shall issue jointly the final decision and order in the case.

(9) A permit issued under this section is valid until December 31 of the year in which the application for the permit was filed and is not renewable. If an item designated in a permit for recovery is not recovered, a permit holder may, upon request following the expiration of the permit, be issued a new permit to remove the same abandoned property if the permit holder demonstrates that diligence in attempting recovery was exercised under the previously issued permit.

(10) A permit issued under this section shall not be transferred or assigned unless the assignment is approved in writing by both the department and the department of history, arts, and libraries.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 58, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995;—Am. 2001, Act 75, Imd. Eff. July 24, 2001;—Am. 2004, Act 325, Imd. Eff. Sept. 10, 2004.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of powers and duties relating to promotion of history and the preservation of the state's historical resources to the department of natural resources, see E.R.O. No. 2009-26, compiled at MCL 399.752.

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### **324.76110 Recovered abandoned property; report; examination; removal from state; action for recovery; release of property.**

Sec. 76110. (1) Within 10 days after recovery of abandoned property, a person with a permit issued pursuant to section 76109 shall report the recovery in writing to the department. The person recovering the abandoned property shall give authorized representatives of the department and the department of history, arts, and libraries an opportunity to examine the abandoned property for a period of 90 days after recovery. Recovered abandoned property shall not be removed from this state without written approval of the department and the department of history, arts, and libraries. If the recovered abandoned property is removed from the state without written approval, the attorney general, upon request from the department or the department of history, arts, and libraries, shall bring an action for the recovery of the property.

(2) If the department of history, arts, and libraries determines that the recovered abandoned property does not have historical value, the department of history, arts, and libraries shall release the property to the person holding the permit by means of a written instrument.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 58, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995;—Am. 2001, Act 75, Imd. Eff. July 24, 2001.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of powers and duties relating to promotion of history and the preservation of the state's historical resources to the department of natural resources, see E.R.O. No. 2009-26, compiled at MCL 399.752.

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### **324.76111 Great Lakes bottomlands preserve; establishment; rules; determination; factors; granting permit to recover abandoned artifacts; limitation; intentional sinking of vessel; prohibited use of state money; Thunder Bay Great Lakes state bottomland preserve.**

Sec. 76111. (1) Subject to subsection (7), the department of environmental quality shall establish Great Lakes bottomlands preserves by rule. A Great Lakes bottomlands preserve shall be established by emergency rule if it is determined by the department that this action is necessary to immediately protect an object or area of historical or recreational value.

(2) A Great Lakes bottomlands preserve may be established whenever a bottomlands area includes a single watercraft of significant historical value, includes 2 or more abandoned watercraft, or contains other features of archaeological, historical, recreational, geological, or environmental significance. Bottomlands areas containing few or no watercraft or other features directly related to the character of a preserve may be excluded from preserves.

(3) In establishing a Great Lakes bottomlands preserve, the department of environmental quality shall

consider all of the following factors:

(a) Whether creating the preserve is necessary to protect either abandoned property possessing historical or recreational value, or significant underwater geological or environmental features.

(b) The extent of local public and private support for creation of the preserve.

(c) Whether a preserve development plan has been prepared by a state or local agency.

(d) The extent to which preserve support facilities such as roads, marinas, charter services, hotels, medical hyperbaric facilities, and rescue agencies have been developed in or are planned for the area.

(4) The department of environmental quality and the department of history, arts, and libraries shall not grant a permit to recover abandoned artifacts within a Great Lakes bottomlands preserve except for historical or scientific purposes or when the recovery will not adversely affect the historical, cultural, or recreational integrity of the preserve area as a whole.

(5) An individual Great Lakes bottomlands preserve shall not exceed 400 square miles in area. Great Lakes bottomlands preserves shall be limited in total area to not more than 10% of the Great Lakes bottomlands within this state. However, the limitations provided in this subsection do not apply to the Thunder Bay Great Lakes bottomland preserve established in subsection (7).

(6) Upon the approval of the committee, not more than 1 vessel associated with Great Lakes maritime history may be sunk intentionally within a Great Lakes bottomlands preserve. However, state money shall not be expended to purchase, transport, or sink the vessel.

(7) The Thunder Bay Great Lakes state bottomland preserve established under R 299.6001 of the Michigan administrative code shall have boundaries identical with those described in 15 C.F.R. 922.190 for the Thunder Bay national marine sanctuary and underwater preserve. As long as the Thunder Bay national marine sanctuary and underwater preserve remains a designated national marine sanctuary, the right and privilege to explore, survey, excavate, and regulate abandoned property of historical or recreational value found upon or within the lands owned by or under control of the state within those boundaries shall be jointly managed and regulated by the department of environmental quality and the national oceanic and atmospheric administration. However, this subsection shall not be construed to convey any ownership right or interest from the state to the federal government of abandoned property of historical or recreational value found upon or within the lands owned by or under control of the state.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 58, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995;—Am. 2000, Act 441, Imd. Eff. Jan. 9, 2001;—Am. 2001, Act 75, Imd. Eff. July 24, 2001.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of powers and duties relating to promotion of history and the preservation of the state's historical resources to the department of natural resources, see E.R.O. No. 2009-26, compiled at MCL 399.752.

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**Administrative rules:** R 299.6001 et seq. of the Michigan Administrative Code.

### **324.76112 Rules generally.**

Sec. 76112. (1) The department and the department of history, arts, and libraries, jointly or separately, may promulgate rules as are necessary to implement this part.

(2) Within each Great Lakes bottomlands preserve, the department and the department of history, arts, and libraries may jointly promulgate rules that govern access to and use of a Great Lakes bottomlands preserve. These rules may regulate or prohibit the alteration, destruction, or removal of abandoned property, features, or formations within a preserve.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 58, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995;—Am. 2001, Act 75, Imd. Eff. July 24, 2001.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of powers and duties relating to promotion of history and the preservation of the state's historical resources to the department of natural resources, see E.R.O. No. 2009-26, compiled at MCL 399.752.

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### **324.76113 Limitations not imposed by MCL 324.76107 to 324.76110.**

Sec. 76113. Sections 76107 to 76110 shall not be considered to impose the following limitations:

(a) A limitation on the right of a person to engage in diving for recreational purposes in and upon the Great Lakes or the bottomlands of the Great Lakes.

(b) A limitation on the right of the department or the department of history, arts, and libraries to recover, or to contract for the recovery of, abandoned property in and upon the bottomlands of the Great Lakes.

(c) A limitation on the right of a person to own either abandoned property recovered before July 2, 1980 or abandoned property released to a person after inspection.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 58, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995;—Am. 2001, Act 75, Imd. Eff. July 24, 2001.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of powers and duties relating to promotion of history and the preservation of the state's historical resources to the department of natural resources, see E.R.O. No. 2009-26, compiled at MCL 399.752.

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### **324.76114 Suspension or revocation of permit; grounds; hearing; civil action.**

Sec. 76114. (1) If the department or the department of history, arts, and libraries finds that the holder of a permit issued pursuant to section 76105 or 76109 is not in compliance with this part, a rule promulgated under this part, or a provision of or condition in the permit, or has damaged abandoned property or failed to use diligence in attempting to recover property for which a permit was issued, the department or the department of history, arts, and libraries, individually or jointly, may summarily suspend or revoke the permit. If the permit holder requests a hearing within 15 days following the effective date of the suspension or revocation, the commission or the department of history, arts, and libraries shall conduct an administrative hearing pursuant to chapter 4 of the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.271 to 24.287, to consider whether the permit should be reinstated.

(2) The attorney general, on behalf of the department or the department of history, arts, and libraries, individually or jointly, may commence a civil action in circuit court to enforce compliance with this part, to restrain a violation of this part or any action contrary to a decision denying a permit, to enjoin the further removal of artifacts, geological material, or abandoned property, or to order the restoration of an affected area to its prior condition.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 58, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995;—Am. 2001, Act 75, Imd. Eff. July 24, 2001.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of powers and duties relating to promotion of history and the preservation of the state's historical resources to the department of natural resources, see E.R.O. No. 2009-26, compiled at MCL 399.752.

**Popular name:** Act 451

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### **324.76115 Dangers accepted by participants in sport of scuba diving.**

Sec. 76115. Each person who participates in the sport of scuba diving on the Great Lakes bottomlands accepts the dangers that adhere in that sport insofar as the dangers are obvious and necessary. Those dangers include, but are not limited to, injuries which can result from entanglements in sunken watercraft or aircraft; the condition of sunken watercraft or aircraft; the location of sunken watercraft or aircraft; the failure of the state to fund staff or programs at bottomlands preserves; and the depth of the objects and bottomlands within preserves.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 58, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of powers and duties relating to promotion of history and the preservation of the state's historical resources to the department of natural resources, see E.R.O. No. 2009-26, compiled at MCL 399.752.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**Popular name:** NREPA

### **324.76116 Violation as misdemeanor; penalty.**

Sec. 76116. (1) A person who violates section 76105 or 76106 is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for not more than 30 days, or a fine of not more than \$100.00, or both.

(2) A person who violates sections 76107 or 76111 or a rule promulgated under this part is guilty of a misdemeanor. Unless another penalty is provided in this part, a person convicted of a misdemeanor under this subsection is punishable by imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or a fine of not more than \$500.00, or both.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 58, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of powers and duties relating to promotion of history and the preservation of the state's historical resources to the department of natural resources, see E.R.O. No. 2009-26, compiled at MCL 399.752.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**Popular name:** NREPA

### **324.76117 Attaching, proceeding against, or confiscating equipment or apparatus; procedure; disposition of proceeds.**

Sec. 76117. (1) If a person who violates this part or a rule promulgated under this part uses a watercraft, mechanical or other assistance, scuba gear, sonar equipment, a motor vehicle, or any other equipment or apparatus during the course of committing the violation, the items so used may be attached, proceeded against, and confiscated as prescribed in this part.



(2) To effect confiscation, the law enforcement or conservation officer seizing the property shall file a verified complaint in the circuit court for the county in which the seizure was made or in the circuit court for Ingham county. The complaint shall set forth the kind of property seized, the time and place of the seizure, the reasons for the seizure, and a demand for the property's condemnation and confiscation. Upon the filing of the complaint, an order shall be issued requiring the owner to show cause why the property should not be confiscated. The substance of the complaint shall be stated in the order. The order to show cause shall fix the time for service of the order and for the hearing on the proposed condemnation and confiscation.

(3) The order to show cause shall be served on the owner of the property as soon as possible, but not less than 7 days before the complaint is to be heard. The court, for cause shown, may hear the complaint on shorter notice. If the owner is not known or cannot be found, notice may be served in 1 or more of the following ways:

(a) By posting a copy of the order in 3 public places for 3 consecutive weeks in the county in which the seizure was made and by sending a copy of the order by certified mail to the last known business or residential address of the owner. If the last addresses of the owner are not known, mailing a copy of the order is not required.

(b) By publishing a copy of the order in a newspaper once each week for 3 consecutive weeks in the county where the seizure was made and by sending a copy of the order by registered mail to the last known residential address of the owner. If the last residential address of the owner is not known, mailing a copy of the order is not required.

(c) In such a manner as the court directs.

(4) Upon hearing of the complaint, if the court determines that the property mentioned in the petition was possessed, shipped, or used contrary to law, either by the owner or by a person lawfully in possession of the property under an agreement with the owner, an order shall be made condemning and confiscating the property and directing its sale or other disposal by the department. If the owner signs a property release, a court proceeding is not necessary. At the hearing, if the court determines that the property was not possessed, shipped, or used contrary to law, the court shall order the department to immediately return the property to its owner.

(5) The department shall deposit the proceeds it receives under this section into the state treasury to the credit of the underwater preserve fund created in section 76118.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 58, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of powers and duties relating to promotion of history and the preservation of the state's historical resources to the department of natural resources, see E.R.O. No. 2009-26, compiled at MCL 399.752.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**Popular name:** NREPA

### **324.76118 Underwater preserve fund; creation; sources of revenue; purposes for which money appropriated.**

Sec. 76118. (1) The underwater preserve fund is created as a separate fund in the state treasury, and it may receive revenue as provided in this part, or revenue from any other source.

(2) Money in the underwater preserve fund shall be appropriated for only the following purposes:

(a) To the department of history, arts, and libraries for the development of maritime archaeology and for the promotion of Great Lakes bottomlands preserves in this state.

(b) To the department for the enforcement of this part.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 58, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995;—Am. 2001, Act 75, Imd. Eff. July 24, 2001.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of powers and duties relating to promotion of history and the preservation of the state's historical resources to the department of natural resources, see E.R.O. No. 2009-26, compiled at MCL 399.752.

**Popular name:** Act 451

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