

## ORGANIC ADDITIVES TO CONTROL ICE ON ROADS

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**Senate Bill 379 as passed by the Senate**

**Sponsor: Sen. Roger Victory**

**House Committee: Transportation**

**Senate Committee: Transportation and Infrastructure**

**Complete to 9-14-20**

Analysis available at  
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

### SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 379 would amend 1951 PA 51 (“Act 51”) to require the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to implement a pilot program on the use of organic additives to control ice on public roads, highway, and bridges in Michigan. The bill would describe the program’s purpose as reducing application of salt and chemicals that contribute to the deterioration of public roads, highways, and bridges and to chloride pollution in lakes, rivers, and groundwater.

The pilot program described above would have to do at least all of the following:

- Identify and use methods to reduce the application of salt and chemicals through expanded use of organic additives, including liquid sugar beet by-products, that promote surface adhering and reduce the freezing point of applied substances.
- Examine results from expanded use of organic additives, including potential environmental and fiscal impacts.
- Develop best practices and technical guidelines to expand the use of organic additives.
- Convey program information and guidance to local road agencies.
- Use organic additives in at least five test locations, each containing public roads, highways, and bridges that are likely to experience deterioration from application of salt and chemicals and a body of water at high risk of chloride pollution.
- Include collaboration with at least one local road agency.

By December 31, 2022, MDOT would have to submit a report on the pilot program to the members of the House of Representatives and Senate committees with jurisdiction over transportation. The report would have to summarize at least all of the following:

- Pilot program activity.
- Review results.
- Steps for increasing statewide use of organic additives.

Proposed MCL 247.661a

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

Senate Bill 379 would amend Act 51 to require MDOT to implement a pilot program on the use of organic additives to control ice on public roads, highways, and bridges in Michigan. Some of the general research and reporting activities required by the bill would appear to have relatively minor costs that could be absorbed by ongoing department maintenance operations appropriations. The requirement that the department use organic additives at certain test locations would result in additional costs associated with designing, implementing, and reporting on the testing. Specific additional costs could include material purchase, material blending, disbursement, measuring results, and comparison with conventional methods. The amount of potential additional costs, and, specifically, the additional costs of the pilot program as compared to conventional deicing methods, cannot be readily estimated at this time.

From a longer-term perspective, the pilot program could help determine the impact of organic additives on MDOT's direct deicing costs. The program could also help determine whether the use of organic additives could reduce the indirect impacts of salt corrosion on transportation structures and motor vehicles and the environmental impacts of salt runoff.

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