

**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 monumentation 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) "Monument" means a relatively permanent physical marker.

7 Sec. 5. (1) The Michigan-Indiana state line commission is



1 established in the department of licensing and regulatory affairs.

2 (2) The commission consists of the county surveyors of Berrien
3 County, Cass County, St. Joseph County, Branch County, and
4 Hillsdale County, who shall serve ex officio. If a county surveyor
5 is unable to serve for any reason, the governor shall appoint a
6 surveyor licensed in this state and who is a resident of the same
7 county as that county surveyor. A member of the commission
8 appointed by the governor shall serve for a term of 2 years. The
9 governor may remove a member of the commission appointed by the
10 governor, for incompetence, dereliction of duty, malfeasance,
11 misfeasance, or nonfeasance in office, or any other good cause.

12 (3) The first meeting of the commission shall be called by the
13 director of the department of licensing and regulatory affairs. At
14 the first meeting of the commission, the commission shall elect
15 from among its members a chairperson and other officers as it
16 considers necessary or appropriate. After the first meeting, the
17 commission shall meet at least quarterly, or more frequently at the
18 call of the chairperson or if requested by 3 or more members.

19 (4) A majority of the members of the commission constitute a
20 quorum for transacting business. A vote in favor by a majority of
21 the members serving is required for any action of the commission.

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

24 (6) A writing that is prepared, owned, used, possessed, or
25 retained by the commission in performing an official function is
26 subject to the freedom of information act, 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231
27 to 15.246.

28 (7) A member of the commission is not entitled to compensation
29 for service on the commission but may be reimbursed for actual and



1 necessary expenses incurred in serving.

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

4 (a) Administer a survey and remonumentation of the Michigan-
5 Indiana state line.

6 (b) Recover or reestablish monuments at the mileposts and
7 intermediate monument control points of the Michigan-Indiana state
8 line as established in the 1827 federal survey that defined that
9 line. The commission also shall recover or reestablish monuments at
10 the posts originally set at or near the shores of lakes and large
11 rivers of the Michigan-Indiana state line as established in the
12 1827 federal survey, or witness corners for set posts. The
13 commission shall review the survey upon completion of each
14 milepost.

15 (c) Compile appropriate records and documents verifying the
16 location of the mileposts, and process those records and documents
17 through the state survey and remonumentation commission created in
18 section 3 of the state survey and remonumentation act, 1990 PA 345,
19 MCL 54.263.

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

23 (2) The commission shall not replace lost corner positions if
24 the state of Indiana does not participate in the survey and
25 remonumentation project as authorized by Indiana law.

26 (3) To accomplish the purposes of this act, the commission or
27 its representative may meet and collaborate with a similar
28 commission established by the state of Indiana or that commission's
29 representative.



1 Sec. 9. (1) Upon completion of the survey and remonumentation,
2 the commission shall submit the survey to the legislature of this
3 state for approval by public act. The survey shall be accompanied
4 by a report of the commission that states whether there are
5 differences between the survey and the survey of a similar
6 commission established by the state of Indiana and explains any
7 differences.

8 (2) If the legislature approves the survey, for each milepost
9 or the posts originally set at or near the shores of lakes or large
10 rivers determined under this act, the commission shall do both of
11 the following:

12 (a) File with the appropriate county register of deeds a land
13 corner recordation certificate under the state corner recordation
14 act, 1970 PA 74, MCL 54.201 to 54.210d, that provides appropriate
15 references and Michigan state plane coordinates.

16 (b) File a copy of the certificate under subdivision (a) with
17 the state survey and remonumentation commission created under
18 section 3 of the state survey and remonumentation act, 1990 PA 345,
19 MCL 54.263.

20 Sec. 11. The commission shall procure professional surveying
21 services through negotiated contracts. The commission shall award
22 contracts only to persons incorporated in this state or with a
23 principal place of business in this state.

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

