



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

Washington Square Building, Suite 1025  
Lansing, Michigan 48909  
Phone. 517/373-6466

**ADD MEMBERS TO SUPER COLLIDER COMMISSION**

House Bill 5544 with committee amendment  
First Analysis (4-21-88)

Sponsor: Rep. Debbie Stabenow  
Committee: Economic Development and Energy

**THE APPARENT PROBLEM:**

The Michigan Superconducting Super Collider Act was created in 1987 to help the state prepare to establish a proposed \$4.5 billion U.S. Department of Energy superconducting super collider in the state if Michigan is chosen as the project site. The act, among other things, established the Michigan Superconducting Super Collider (SSC) Commission which is composed of state officials, representatives of universities, individuals nominated by legislative leaders, and ten individuals appointed by the governor representing utilities, business, labor, environmental organizations, local government, and private citizens. The commission is charged with developing plans for the procurement and development of the proposed super collider project and has had to deliberate over a number of different issues. Perhaps the most important issue has been to try to find ways to equitably acquire property for the super collider from residents in the Stockbridge area — where the proposed project site is located. Acquiring the necessary land for the development of the project is crucial if the state is to make a serious attempt to win the super collider; certain residents of the area, consequently, are being asked to relocate their homes, and the state has committed itself to fully compensating all of these residents whose land is needed for the establishment of the project. Some have suggested adding a governor-appointed member to the SSC Commission who is a resident of the proposed area, who could better represent the concerns of those who are being asked to relocate at the state's expense. Also, a suggestion has been made to include the director of the Department of Agriculture as a member on the commission, to ensure that agricultural concerns are adequately considered in the land acquisition process.

**THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:**

The bill would amend the Michigan Superconducting Super Collider Act to increase the number of persons who are appointed by the governor to serve on the Michigan SSC Commission from ten to eleven. This additional member, who would be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent from the Senate, would have to be a resident of the area of the proposed site of the super collider. In addition, the bill would include the director of the Department of Agriculture "or his or her designee" in the list of state officials who serve on the commission.

MCL 3.814

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:**

According to the Department of Agriculture, the bill would not affect state expenditures. (4-20-88)

**ARGUMENTS:**

**For:**

Michigan's effort to win the proposed U.S. Department of Energy Superconducting Super Collider has been aided by the SSC Commission created under the Michigan Superconducting Super Collider Act. The commission deliberates on various concerns associated with the procurement and establishment of the super collider in Michigan, and one of the major concerns of the commission involves land acquisition. Residents of the Stockbridge area — where the super collider would be located if Michigan wins the project — have been asked to relocate at the state's expense. Questions regarding the relocation of these residents, such as how much a local property owner should be paid for his or her property, will effect the lives of members of the more than 200 families in the affected area. The commission is composed of different people from throughout the state who represent state and local government, universities, and legislators, as well as ten individuals appointed by the governor who represent a wide range of interests in the state. Currently, however, none of these governor-appointed members of the commission is a resident of the proposed site for the super collider. Such a person could give residents of the area a voice in the deliberations of the commission and could improve negotiations between residents of the area and the state in the land acquisition and relocation process.

**For:**

Because of the implications to land and agriculture in the plans for developing the super collider, an individual representing state agricultural concerns should be added to the commission. The bill would add as a member to the commission the director of the Department of Agriculture, or his or her designee. This would ensure that agricultural concerns associated with the development of the project in the state would be adequately considered in the commission's deliberations.

**POSITIONS:**

The Department of Agriculture supports the bill. (4-20-88)

H.B. 5544 (4-21-88)