

STATE OF MICHIGAN
89TH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 1997

Introduced by Rep. Anthony

ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 4049

AN ACT to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled "An act to protect the environment and natural resources of the state; to codify, revise, consolidate, and classify laws relating to the environment and natural resources of the state; to regulate the discharge of certain substances into the environment; to regulate the use of certain lands, waters, and other natural resources of the state; to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state and local agencies and officials; to provide for certain charges, fees, and assessments; to provide certain appropriations; to prescribe penalties and provide remedies; to repeal certain parts of this act on a specific date; and to repeal certain acts and parts of acts," by amending sections 51701 and 51702 (MCL 324.51701 and 324.51702), as added by 1995 PA 57, and by adding sections 51703, 51704, and 51705.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Sec. 51701. As used in this part:

- (a) "Department" means the director of the department of natural resources or his or her designee.
- (b) "Prescribed burn" means a fire that is intentionally set by the department in a forest area on state owned property or privately owned property to assist the department in implementing 1 or more land use management goals.
- (c) "Projected burn area" means the area in which a prescribed burn is expected to occur.

Sec. 51702. (1) The state or a department, bureau, board, commission, or other agency of the state or a political subdivision of the state shall not enact, adopt, promulgate, enforce, or practice any law, rule, policy, or concept that creates or tends to create a condition that promotes, fosters, or leads or may tend to promote, foster, or lead to the beginning or spreading of a forest fire that could jeopardize the public trust in the forests of the state or any private land contiguous to the forests of the state, except as may be required for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare, or as prescribed for forest management or wildlife management programs under the authority of the department.

(2) To the extent authorized by law, all acts and parts of acts or rules promulgated pursuant to acts or parts that are inconsistent with this part are repealed.

Sec. 51703. (1) The department shall not conduct a prescribed burn of more than 40 acres in this state in a year unless the department first conducts at least 1 public meeting in that year in a county in the projected burn area. The public meeting shall be conducted to alert members of the public that 1 or more prescribed burns may occur and what the purpose and anticipated consequences of the prescribed burn will be. In addition, members of the public shall have an opportunity at the public meeting to express their concerns and opinions regarding a prescribed burn.

(2) For a prescribed burn of more than 40 acres, in addition to the requirement for a public meeting under subsection (1), the department shall notify each local fire department with jurisdiction over the projected burn area and shall publish a public notice in a newspaper with a general circulation covering the projected burn area that a prescribed burn is scheduled to occur within a designated 60-day period. The notification and publication shall take place not less than 2 weeks before the first day of the 60-day period. The notice published under this subsection shall be drafted in the manner that the department determines is best suited to provide notice to residents in or near the projected burn area.

Sec. 51704. (1) Except as provided in subsection (3), the department shall not conduct a prescribed burn on privately owned property.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3), the department shall not conduct a prescribed burn of more than 40 acres unless there is at least a 100-foot buffer zone between the projected burn area and any private property adjoining the property on which the projected burn area is located.

(3) A private property owner may consent in writing to 1 or more of the following:

- (a) A prescribed burn on all or a portion of his or her property conducted by the department.
- (b) A waiver or specified reduction of the 100-foot buffer zone.

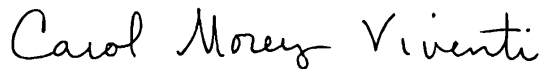
(4) The department shall not intentionally conduct a prescribed burn within a buffer zone established under this section.

Sec. 51705. If a projected burn area adjoins a state trunk line highway or county road, the department shall consider excluding from the prescribed burn an area along the highway or road to serve as a buffer zone.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.



Clerk of the House of Representatives.



Secretary of the Senate.

Approved _____

Governor.