

**SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 857**

A bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled  
"Natural resources and environmental protection act,"  
by amending section 72105a (MCL 324.72105a), as added by 1997 PA  
129.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1       Sec. 72105a. (1) The department shall establish an  
2 "adopt-a-trail" program that will allow volunteer groups to  
3 assist in maintaining and enhancing Michigan trailways and  
4 rail-trails.

5       (2) Subject to subsection (3), volunteer groups in the  
6 adopt-a-trail program may adopt any available Michigan trailway  
7 or rail-trail or Michigan trailway or rail-trail segment and may  
8 choose any 1 or more of the following volunteer activities:

9       (a) Spring cleanups.

10       (b) Environmental activities.

1 (c) Accessibility projects.

2 (d) Special events.

3 (e) Trailway maintenance and development.

4 (f) Public information and assistance.

5 (g) Training.

6 (3) The department shall designate the activities to be  
7 performed by a volunteer group in the adopt-a-trail program. The  
8 department may provide for more than 1 volunteer group to adopt a  
9 Michigan trailway or rail-trail or Michigan trailway or  
10 rail-trail segment.

11 (4) A volunteer group that wishes to participate in the  
12 adopt-a-trail program shall submit an application to the  
13 department on a form provided by the department. Additionally,  
14 volunteer groups shall agree to the following:

15 (a) Volunteer groups shall participate in the program for at  
16 least a 2-year period.

17 (b) Volunteer groups shall consist of at least 6 people who  
18 are 18 years of age or older, unless the volunteer group is a  
19 school or scout organization, in which case the volunteers may be  
20 under 18 years of age.

21 (c) Volunteer groups shall contribute a total of at least 400  
22 service hours over a 2-year period.

23 (d) Volunteer groups shall comply with other reasonable  
24 requirements of the department.

25 (5) A state park manager or a district forest manager may  
26 issue to volunteers who are actively working on adopt-a-trail  
27 projects that last more than 1 day free camping permits if

1 campsites are available. A state park manager or a district  
2 forest manager may waive state park entry fees for volunteers  
3 entering state parks to work on adopt-a-trail projects.

4 (6) While a volunteer is working on an adopt-a-trail project,  
5 the volunteer has the same immunity from civil liability as a  
6 department employee and shall be treated in the same manner as an  
7 employee under section 8 of 1964 PA 170, MCL 691.1408.

8 (7) The department shall design and erect near the entrance  
9 of each Michigan trailway or rail-trail in the adopt-a-trail  
10 program or along the trailway an adopt-a-trail program sign with  
11 the name of the volunteer group's sponsoring organization listed  
12 for each volunteer group that has contributed at least 100  
13 service hours by volunteers.

14 (8) The department shall provide a volunteer group conducting  
15 litter cleanup efforts under the adopt-a-trail program with a  
16 method for the volunteer group to record a general  
17 characterization of the types and amount of trash collected  
18 during the group's cleanup effort. The department shall request  
19 the group to forward the information recorded to the department  
20 of environmental quality on completion.

21 (9) The department of environmental quality shall compile  
22 information received under subsection (8) and shall, by December  
23 31 of each year, make an annual report to the committees of both  
24 houses of the legislature with primary jurisdiction over matters  
25 relating to natural resources and the environment and to the  
26 recycling advisory council created under section 17302,  
27 presenting the information compiled under this section and under

1 similar requirements of other adopt-a-resource programs  
2 established under this act.

3 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take  
4 effect unless Senate Bill No. 790 of the 92nd Legislature is  
5 enacted into law.