

SUBSTITUTE FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 6545

A bill to amend 1956 PA 40, entitled  
"The drain code of 1956,"  
by amending section 196 (MCL 280.196), as amended by 1989 PA 149.

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

1           Sec. 196. (1) An annual inspection may be made of ~~all drains~~  
2 ~~laid out and constructed~~ **A DRAIN ESTABLISHED** under this act.  
3           Inspection shall also be made upon the request of the governing  
4 body of a public corporation, as defined in section 461, served in  
5 whole or in part by the drain to be inspected. For county drains,  
6 the inspection shall be made by the drain commissioner, or a  
7 competent person appointed by the drain commissioner. For  
8 intercounty drains, the inspection shall be caused to be made by  
9 the drainage board.  
10           (2) Surplus construction funds remaining after completion of

1 construction of a drain, or funds remaining after completion of  
 2 work performed under a petition for maintenance or improvements  
 3 under this chapter, shall be deposited in the drain fund of a  
 4 drainage district and shall be expended for inspection, repair, and  
 5 maintenance of the drain.

6 (3) If at any time the drain fund of a drainage district  
 7 contains less than ~~-\$2,500.00-~~ **\$5,000.00** per mile ~~of drain~~ or  
 8 fraction of a mile **OF A DRAIN**, the drain commissioner or drainage  
 9 board may assess the drainage district for an amount not to exceed  
 10 ~~\$1,250.00~~ **a \$2,500.00 PER** mile or fraction of a mile in any 1  
 11 year. The amount collected under an assessment shall be deposited  
 12 in the drain fund of a drainage district for necessary inspection,  
 13 repair, and maintenance of the drain.

14 (4) If an inspection discloses the necessity of expending  
 15 money for the maintenance and repair of a drain in order to keep it  
 16 in working order, the drain commissioner for a county drain, or the  
 17 drainage board for an intercounty drain, may without petition  
 18 expend an amount not to exceed in any 1 year ~~-\$2,500.00-~~ **\$5,000.00**  
 19 per mile or fraction of a mile for maintenance and repair of a  
 20 drain, **EXCLUSIVE OF INSPECTION AND ENGINEERING FEES AND THE COST OF**  
 21 **PUBLICATION AND MAILING. THE DETERMINATION OF THE MAXIMUM**  
 22 **EXPENDITURE ALLOWED WITHOUT A PETITION OR RESOLUTION SHALL BE BASED**  
 23 **ON THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MILES OF THE DRAIN AND NOT ON THE ACTUAL**  
 24 **NUMBER OF MILES OR LOCATION OF THE MAINTENANCE OR REPAIR.**

25 (5) If the drain commissioner or the drainage board finds it  
 26 necessary to expend funds in excess of ~~-\$2,500.00-~~ **THE AMOUNT**  
 27 **ESTABLISHED IN SUBSECTION (4)** per mile or fraction of a mile in any

1 1 year for the maintenance and repair of a drain, the additional  
2 amounts shall not be expended until approved by resolution of the  
3 governing body of each township, city, and village affected by more  
4 than 20% of the cost.

5 (6) If the drain fund of a drainage district does not contain  
6 sufficient funds to pay for inspection, repair, and maintenance  
7 authorized by this section, the drain commissioner or the drainage  
8 board shall reassess the drainage district for the inspection,  
9 repair, and maintenance according to benefits received. A  
10 reassessment shall be made and spread upon the city or township tax  
11 assessment roll within 2 years after the completion of the  
12 inspection, repair, and maintenance. If the total expenditure is  
13 more than ~~-\$2,500.00-~~ **THE AMOUNT ESTABLISHED IN SUBSECTION (4)** per  
14 mile or fraction of a mile, all real property owners subject to an  
15 assessment within the drainage district shall be notified of the  
16 assessment by publication in a newspaper of general circulation  
17 within the drainage district ~~and~~ **OR** by ~~first~~ **FIRST**-class mail  
18 to the name and address that appears on the last city or township  
19 assessment roll. An affidavit of mailing shall be made by the drain  
20 commissioner. ~~that shall be~~ **THE AFFIDAVIT IS** conclusive proof  
21 that the notices required by this subsection were mailed. The  
22 failure to receive the notices by mail shall not constitute a  
23 jurisdictional defect invalidating a drain tax if notice by  
24 publication was given as required by this subsection.

25 (7) An assessment for the actual cost of inspection, repair,  
26 and maintenance performed on a drain, or an assessment to be  
27 deposited in the drain fund of a drainage district, shall be made

1 according to benefits received. The expenditure limit of ~~-\$2,500.00~~  
2 **THE AMOUNT ESTABLISHED IN SUBSECTION (4)** per mile of drain or  
3 fraction of a mile shall be used to calculate the maximum amount  
4 that the drain commissioner or drainage board may assess in any 1  
5 year without a petition or a request from a public corporation. The  
6 property in a drainage district that benefits from the inspection,  
7 repair, or maintenance of the drain is subject to assessment for  
8 that inspection, repair, or maintenance. Determination of the  
9 maximum assessment amount allowed without petition or request, or  
10 of the property that is subject to assessment, shall be based on  
11 the number of miles of drain and areas of the drainage district  
12 receiving benefits and not on the actual number of miles or actual  
13 location of the inspection, repair, or maintenance.

14 (8) If an emergency condition exists that endangers the public  
15 health, crops, or property within a drainage district, the drain  
16 commissioner or the drainage board may expend funds for maintenance  
17 and repair to alleviate the emergency condition.

18 (9) Nothing in this section prohibits the drain commissioner  
19 or the drainage board from spending funds in excess of ~~-\$2,500.00~~  
20 **THE AMOUNT ESTABLISHED IN SUBSECTION (4)** per mile or fraction of a  
21 mile in any 1 year for inspection, maintenance, and repair of a  
22 drain when requested by a public corporation, if the public  
23 corporation pays the entire cost of the inspection, maintenance,  
24 and repair.

25 (10) In computing the amounts that may be expended in  
26 accordance with this section, the cost of work to be performed by a  
27 federal agency or public corporation that is not chargeable to the

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1 county or intercounty drainage district shall not be included, nor  
 2 shall it be necessary for the drain commissioner or the drainage  
 3 board to advertise for bids for that portion of the work to be done  
 4 by the federal agency or public corporation.

5 (11) For purposes of this section, the costs of maintenance or  
 6 repair shall include the costs of maintaining the drain in working  
 7 order to continue a normal flow of water, including the servicing  
 8 or repair of necessary pumping equipment and utility charges for  
 9 pumping equipment; the cost of keeping the drain free from rubbish,  
 10 debris, siltation, or obstructions; the cost of repairing a portion  
 11 or all of a tile or drain to continue the normal flow of water; and  
 12 other costs associated with the costs enumerated in this  
 13 subsection.

14 (12) If the cost of maintenance and repair of a drain includes  
 15 utility charges or costs to service pumping stations, sewage  
 16 treatment facilities, or retention basins, the limitation for  
 17 maintenance and repair ~~shall~~ **DOES** not apply except that the drain  
 18 commissioner or drainage board may levy sufficient special  
 19 assessments to pay the charges or costs but not more than the  
 20 amount sufficient to pay those charges or costs.

21 (13) ~~The~~ **EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS ACT, [AND IN**  
**COUNTIES WITH A POPULATION EXCEEDING 800,000] THAT**  
 22 **PORTION OF THE** salaries, expenses, and fringe benefits of  
 23 ~~clerical,~~ administrative ~~—~~ and engineering employees **UNDER THE**  
 24 **SUPERVISION** of the drain commissioner ~~or drainage board working~~  
 25 ~~incidental to the operation, repair, or maintenance of a drain~~  
 26 ~~shall~~ **THAT ARE DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE, BUT NOT INCIDENTAL, TO A**  
 27 **DRAIN OR OTHERWISE NOT RECOVERED BY FEES ESTABLISHED BY RESOLUTION**

1 **OR ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MAY** be chargeable to  
2 ~~and paid as budgeted from the county general fund and not~~  
3 ~~chargeable to or by~~ the drain fund of a drainage district.

4 ~~—— (14) A violation of this section is a misdemeanor punishable~~  
5 ~~by imprisonment for not more than 1 year, or by a fine of not more~~  
6 ~~than \$1,000.00, or both.~~