

Act No. 230
Public Acts of 2010
Approved by the Governor
December 14, 2010
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**STATE OF MICHIGAN
95TH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2010**

Introduced by Senator Gleason

ENROLLED SENATE BILL No. 1348

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, assessments, and donations; to provide certain appropriations; to prescribe penalties and provide remedies; and to repeal acts and parts of acts," by amending sections 20129, 20137, and 20139 (MCL 324.20129, 324.20137, and 324.20139), as amended by 1995 PA 71.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Sec. 20129. (1) If 2 or more persons acting independently are liable under section 20126 and there is a reasonable basis for division of harm according to the contribution of each person, each person is subject to liability under this part only for the portion of the total harm attributable to that person. However, a person seeking to limit his or her liability on the grounds that the entire harm is capable of division has the burden of proof as to the divisibility of the harm and as to the apportionment of liability.

(2) If 2 or more persons are liable under section 20126 for an indivisible harm, each person is subject to liability for the entire harm.

(3) A person may seek contribution from any other person who is liable under section 20126 during or following a civil action brought under this part. This subsection does not diminish the right of a person to bring an action for contribution in the absence of a civil action by the state under this part. In a contribution action brought under this part, the court shall consider all of the following factors in allocating response activity costs and damages among liable persons:

- (a) Each person's relative degree of responsibility in causing the release or threat of release.
- (b) The principles of equity pertaining to contribution.
- (c) The degree of involvement of and care exercised by the person with regard to the hazardous substance.
- (d) The degree of cooperation by the person with federal, state, or local officials to prevent, minimize, respond to, or remedy the release or threat of release.
- (e) Whether equity requires that the liability of some of the persons should constitute a single share.

(4) If, in an action for contribution under subsection (3), the court determines that all or part of a person's share of liability is uncollectible from that person, then the court may reallocate any uncollectible amount among the other liable persons according to the factors listed in subsection (3). A person whose share is determined to be uncollectible continues to be subject to contribution and to any continuing liability to the state.

(5) A person who has resolved his or her liability to the state in an administrative or judicially approved consent order is not liable for claims for contribution regarding matters addressed in the consent order. The consent order does not discharge any of the other persons liable under section 20126 unless the terms of the consent order provide for this discharge, but the potential liability of the other persons is reduced by the amount of the consent order.

(6) A person who is not liable under this part, including a person who was issued a written determination under former section 20129a affirming that the person meets the criteria for an exemption from liability, and who is otherwise in compliance with section 20107a, shall be considered to have resolved his or her liability to the state in an administratively approved settlement under the comprehensive environmental response, compensation, and liability act, 42 USC 9601 to 9675, and shall by operation of law be granted contribution protection under 42 USC 9613(f)(2) and under this part in the same manner that contribution protection is provided pursuant to subsection (5).

(7) If the state obtains less than complete relief from a person who has resolved his or her liability to the state in an administrative or judicially approved consent order under this part, the state may bring an action against any other person liable under section 20126 who has not resolved his or her liability.

(8) A person who has resolved his or her liability to the state for some or all of a response activity in an administrative or judicially approved consent order may seek contribution from any person who is not a party to the consent order described in subsection (5).

(9) In an action for contribution under this section, the rights of any person who has resolved his or her liability to the state is subordinate to the rights of the state, if the state files an action under this part.

Sec. 20137. (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), in addition to other relief authorized by law, the attorney general may, on behalf of the state, commence a civil action seeking 1 or more of the following:

(a) Temporary or permanent injunctive relief necessary to protect the public health, safety, or welfare, or the environment from the release or threat of release.

(b) Recovery of state response activity costs pursuant to section 20126a.

(c) Damages for the full value of injury to, destruction of, or loss of natural resources resulting from the release or threat of release, including the reasonable costs of assessing the injury, destruction, or loss resulting from the release or threat of release.

(d) A declaratory judgment on liability for future response activity costs and damages.

(e) A civil fine of not more than \$1,000.00 for each day of noncompliance without sufficient cause with a written request of the department pursuant to section 20114(1)(h). A fine imposed under this subdivision shall be based on the seriousness of the violation and any good faith efforts of the person to comply with the request of the department.

(f) A civil fine of not more than \$10,000.00 for each day of violation of this part. A fine imposed under this subdivision shall be based upon the seriousness of the violation and any good faith efforts of the person to comply with this part.

(g) A civil fine of not more than \$25,000.00 for each day of violation of a judicial order or an administrative order issued pursuant to section 20119, including exemplary damages pursuant to section 20119.

(h) Enforcement of an administrative order issued pursuant to section 20119.

(i) Enforcement of information gathering and entry authority pursuant to section 20117.

(j) Enforcement of the reporting requirements under section 20114.

(k) Any other relief necessary for the enforcement of this part.

(2) An owner or operator of a facility from which a hazardous substance is released that is determined to be reportable under section 20114(1)(b)(i), other than a permitted release, who fails to notify the department within 24 hours after obtaining knowledge of the release or who submits in such notification any information that the person knows to be false or misleading, is subject to a civil fine of not more than \$25,000.00 for each day in which the violation occurs or the failure to comply continues. A fine imposed under this subsection shall be based upon the seriousness of the violation and any good-faith efforts by the violator to comply with this subsection.

(3) A person who is responsible for an activity causing a release in excess of the concentrations that satisfy the criteria established pursuant to section 20120a(1)(a) or (b), as appropriate for the use of the property, is subject to a civil fine as provided in this part unless a fine or penalty has already been imposed for the release under another part of this act. However, a civil fine shall not be imposed under this subsection against a person who made a good-faith effort to prevent the release and to comply with the provisions of this part. This subsection does not apply to a release from an underground storage tank system as defined in part 213.

(4) If an action is brought under this part by a plaintiff other than the attorney general, the plaintiff shall, at the time of filing, provide a copy of the complaint to the attorney general.

(5) Except as otherwise provided in this part, an action brought under this part may be brought in the circuit court for the county of Ingham, in the county in which the defendant resides, has a place of business, or in which the registered office of a defendant corporation is located, or in the county where the release occurred.

(6) A state court does not have jurisdiction to review challenges to a response activity selected or approved by the department under this part or to review an administrative order issued under this part in any action except an action that is 1 of the following:

(a) An action to recover response costs, damages, or for contribution.

(b) An action by the state to enforce an administrative order under this part or by any other person under section 20135(1)(b) to enforce an administrative order or to recover a fine for violation of an order.

(c) An action pursuant to section 20119(5) for review of a decision by the department denying or limiting reimbursement.

(d) An action pursuant to section 20135 challenging a response activity selected or approved by the department, if the action is filed after the completion of the response activity.

(e) An action by the state pursuant to section 20126a(6) to compel response activity.

(7) In any judicial action under this part, judicial review of any issues concerning the selection or adequacy of a response activity taken, ordered, or agreed to by the state are limited to the administrative record. If the court finds that the record is incomplete or inadequate, the court may consider supplemental material in the action. In considering objections raised in a judicial action under this part, the court shall uphold the state's decision in selecting a response activity unless the objecting party can demonstrate based on the administrative record that the decision was arbitrary and capricious or otherwise not in accordance with law. In reviewing alleged procedural errors, the court may disallow costs or damages only to the extent the errors were so serious and related to matters of such central importance that the activity would have been significantly changed had the errors not been made.

(8) In an action commenced under this part, any person may intervene as a matter of right if that person claims an interest relating to the subject matter of the action and is situated so that the disposition of the action may, as a practical matter, impair or impede the person's ability to protect that interest, unless the court finds the person's interest is adequately represented by an existing party.

Sec. 20139. (1) The penalties provided in this section only apply to a release that occurs after July 1, 1991.

(2) A person who does any of the following is guilty of a felony and shall be fined not less than \$2,500.00 or more than \$25,000.00 for each violation:

(a) Knowingly releases or causes a release contrary to applicable federal, state, or local requirements or contrary to any permit or license held by that person, if that person knew or should have known that the release could cause personal injury or property damage.

(b) Intentionally makes a false statement, representation, or certification in any application, record, report, plan, or other document filed or required to be maintained under this part.

(c) Intentionally renders inaccurate any monitoring device or record required to be maintained under this part.

(d) Misrepresents his or her qualifications under section 20114d or 20114e.

(3) In addition to a fine imposed under subsection (2), the court may impose an additional fine of not more than \$25,000.00 for each day during which the release occurred. If the conviction is for a violation committed after a first conviction of the person under this subsection, the court shall impose a fine of not less than \$25,000.00 and not more than \$50,000.00 per day of violation. Upon conviction, in addition to a fine, the court in its discretion may sentence the defendant to imprisonment for not more than 2 years or impose probation upon a person for a violation of this part. With the exception of the issuance of criminal complaints, issuance of warrants, and the holding of an arraignment, the circuit court for the county in which the violation occurred has exclusive jurisdiction.

(4) Upon a finding by the court that the action of a criminal defendant prosecuted under this section poses or posed a substantial endangerment to public health, safety, or welfare, the court shall impose, in addition to the penalties set forth in subsections (2) and (3), a fine of not less than \$1,000,000.00 and, in addition to a fine, a sentence of 5 years' imprisonment.

(5) To find a defendant criminally liable for substantial endangerment under subsection (4), the court shall determine that the defendant knowingly or recklessly acted in such a manner as to cause a danger of death or serious bodily injury and that either of the following has occurred:

(a) The defendant had an actual awareness, belief, or understanding that his or her conduct would cause a substantial danger of death or serious bodily injury.

(b) The defendant acted in gross disregard of the standard of care that any reasonable person would observe in similar circumstances.

(6) Knowledge possessed by a person other than the defendant under subsection (5) may be attributable to the defendant if the defendant took affirmative steps to shield himself or herself from the relevant information.

(7) The department may pay an award of up to \$10,000.00 to an individual that provides information leading to the arrest and conviction of a person for a violation of this section. The department shall promulgate rules that prescribe criteria for granting awards under this section. An award shall not be made under this section until rules are promulgated prescribing the criteria for making awards. Awards under this subsection may be paid from the Michigan environmental assurance fund, if enabling legislation creating the fund is enacted into law.

(8) As used in this section, "serious bodily injury" means bodily injury that involves a substantial risk of death, unconsciousness, extreme physical pain, protracted and obvious disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty.

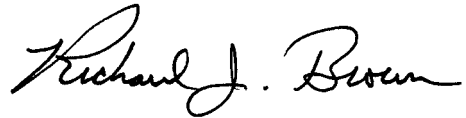
Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect unless all of the following bills of the 95th Legislature are enacted into law:

- (a) Senate Bill No. 1345.
- (b) Senate Bill No. 1346.
- (c) House Bill No. 6359.
- (d) House Bill No. 6360.
- (e) House Bill No. 6363.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.



Secretary of the Senate



Clerk of the House of Representatives

Approved

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Governor