



House Democrats Introduce Bill Package Aimed at Fracking

House Democrats recently unveiled an eight-bill package of legislation targeting hydraulic fracturing techniques used in the exploration and production of natural gas, commonly referred to as “fracking”. While hydraulic fracturing is not a new process and has been utilized for decades in oil & gas exploration throughout the United States, more attention has been drawn to the process of late due to new exploration technologies and techniques and a “natural gas boom” occurring throughout the United States. As Michigan has seen a significant uptick in exploration both in Northern Lower Michigan and in communities along the Indiana-Ohio border, environmental groups have voiced concerns over whether appropriate state regulations are in place. The package is aimed primarily at the following objectives:

- Requiring the disclosure of chemicals used in the fracking process and reporting water used when in excess of 100,000 gallons,
- Allowing municipalities and individuals the opportunity to request a public hearing before a permit is issued,
- Allowing local units of government to regulate operations in their communities,
- Creating a public-private advisory committee to study the effects of fracking and suggest recommendations, and
- Increasing the setback distance of fracking operations from residential areas, and applying a setback requirement for schools, hospitals, daycare centers and public parks.

The legislation, supported by environmental organizations such as the Michigan League of Conservation Voters and Michigan Clean Water Action, is unlikely to see any action in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives. More information on the package is available at www.protectmiwater.com.

Legislature Set to Return in Late August

The Michigan Legislature is set to return from summer recess in the last week of August. The House will return for one session day on August 28, while the Senate will return for session on August 27 & 28. Both chambers will return to their regular midweek session schedule following the Labor Day holiday on September 3.

BILL	SPONSOR	PARTY	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
HB 4095	Rep. Greg MacMaster	R	Convert certain watercraft violations from misdemeanors to civil infractions	Referred to House Committee on Criminal Justice
HB 4096	Rep. Greg MacMaster	R	Exempt certain barges from lighting requirements	Referred to House Committee on Regulatory Reform
HB 4106	Rep. Bob Genetski	R	Clarify allowable use of Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for dredging of Great Lakes Harbors	Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources
HB 4122	Rep. Dian Slavens	D	Regulate exploration and operation of oil & gas wells in residential areas	Referred to House Committee on Energy & Technology
HB 4208	Rep. Dale Zorn	R	Revise residency requirements for resort districts	Passed House, referred to Senate Committee on Local Government
HB 4179	Rep. Al Pscholka	R	Allows tax increment financing for waterways dredging	Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources
HB 4197	Rep. Frank Foster	R	Appropriates \$30 million to DNR for waterways dredging	Referred to House Appropriations Committee
HB 4234	Rep. LaFontaine	R	Provide for sales tax on the difference between trade-in and purchase price for motor vehicles & titled watercraft	Passed House, referred to Senate Finance Committee
HB 4298	Rep. Jon Bumstead	R	Allow delinquent property tax notices to be posted online	Referred to House Committee on Local Government
HB 4339	Rep. Ed McBroom	R	Exempt county road commissions from wetland mitigation	Referred to House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
HB 4358	Rep. Wayne Schmidt	R	Eliminate flat gas tax and create refund period	Referred to House Committee on Transportation &

				Infrastructure
HB 4359	Rep. Wayne Schmidt	R	Establish wholesale gas tax	Referred to House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
HB 4398	Rep. Amanda Price	R	Revise permit fee for Great Lakes bottomlands dredging	Public Act 11 of 2013
HB 4399	Rep. Al Pscholka	R	Create expedited permit process in dredging emergencies	Public Act 12 of 2013
HB 4400	Rep. Peter Pettalia	R	Revise permit fee for Great Lakes bottomlands dredging	Public Act 13 of 2013
HB 4401	Rep. Peter Pettalia	R	Exempt certain mining operations from inland lakes & streams permit requirements	Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources
HB 4410	Rep. Andrea LaFontaine	R	Establishes marina dredging loan origination program	Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources
HB 4441 & 4442	Rep. Matt Lori	R	Revises penalties for operating watercraft while intoxicated or impaired	House floor
HB 4489	Rep. Thomas Stallworth	D	Authorize permit for oceangoing vessels on the Great Lakes if ballast tanks have been flushed with seawater	Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources
HB 4495	Rep. Dan Lauwers	R	Authorize permit for oceangoing vessels on the Great Lakes if ballast tanks have been flushed with seawater	Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources
HB 4510	Rep. Peter MacGregor	R	Authorize disposal of water-softening residuals through specific permitted facilities	Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources
HB 4539	Rep. Wayne Schmidt	R	Eliminate sales tax on gasoline	Referred to House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
HB 4622	Rep. Al Pscholka	R	Revise local drainage district boundaries	Referred to House Committee on Local Government

HB 4608	Rep. Shirkey	R	Increase registration fee for vehicles not subject to motor fuel or diesel fuel tax	Referred to House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
HB 4630	Rep. McCready	R	Modify vehicle registration fees	Referred to House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
HB 4632	Rep. Schmidt	R	Increase vehicle registration tax and create new registration tax for hybrid and alternative vehicles	Referred to House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
HB 4634	Rep. Schmidt	R	Modify trailer registration fees	Referred to House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
HB 4655	Rep. Yonker	R	Modify streamlined use tax on vehicles	Referred to House Committee on Tax Policy
HB 4678	Rep. Daley	R	Require water withdrawal dispute process for agricultural wells	Passed House, referred to Senate Committee on Government Operations
HB 4768	Rep. Crawford	R	Prohibit DEQ from limiting sodium concentration in groundwater discharge	Passed House, Referred to Senate Committee on Natural Resources
HB 4793	Rep. Al Pscholka	R	Allow drainage district to institute condemnation proceedings to acquire right of way on private property	Referred to House Committee on Local Government
HB 4840	Rep. Nesbitt	R	Eliminate permit requirement for suction weed harvesting	Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources
HB 4841	Rep. Irwin	D	Create pesticide notification registry	Referred to House Committee on Regulatory Reform
HB 4885	Rep. Dillon	D	Allow local unit of government to charge for emergency rescue service during an emergency if individual was grossly negligent	Referred to House Committee on Local Government
HB 4886	Rep. VerHeulen	R	Allow local unit of government to charge for emergency rescue service during an emergency if individual was grossly negligent	Referred to House Committee on Local Government

HB 4885	Rep. Nesbitt	R	Reduce severance tax on production oil & gas from enhanced recovery projects	Referred to House Committee on Energy & Technology
HB 4899	Rep. Roberts	D	Require notice & public hearing prior to authorizing hydraulic fracturing	Referred to House Committee on Energy & Technology
HB 4900	Rep. Irwin	D	Require disclosure with respect to hydraulic fracturing	Referred to House Committee on Energy & Technology
HB 4901	Rep. Hovey-Wright	D	Provide for study of hydraulic fracturing	Referred to House Committee on Energy & Technology
HB 4902	Rep. Tlaib	D	Create presumption of liability from chemicals utilized in hydraulic fracturing process	Referred to House Committee on Energy & Technology
HB 4903	Rep. McCann	D	Require water withdrawal assessment tool for certain oil & gas operators	Referred to House Committee on Energy & Technology
HB 4904	Rep. Driskell	D	Eliminate preemption of local zoning of hydraulic fracturing operations	Referred to House Committee on Energy & Technology
HB 4905	Rep. Cochran	D	Prohibit usage of flowback water from hydraulic fracturing as dust suppression tool on dirt roads	Referred to House Committee on Energy & Technology
HB 4906	Rep. Barnett	D	Modify setback requirements for oil & gas wells	Referred to House Committee on Energy & Technology
SB 11	Sen. Tory Rocca	R	Establish sale prices as presumptive true cash value when a property is sold	Referred to Senate Finance Committee
SB 25	Sen. Dave Hildenbrand	R	Revise appeal process for personal residence exemptions	Referred to House Committee on Tax Policy
SB 78	Sen. Tom Casperson	R	Prohibit DNR designation of biodiversity areas	Passed the Senate, Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources
SB 84-88	Senate Republicans	R	Gas tax package	Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee

SB 89 & 90	Sen. Dave Robertson	R	Provide for sales tax on the difference between trade-in and purchase price for motor vehicles & titled watercraft	On House Floor
SB 163	Sen. Mike Green	R	Revises permit exemptions for wetlands & inland lakes and streams, and requires additional justification from Department for denial of Part 13 permits	PA 98 of 2013
SB 164	Sen. Tom Casperson	R	Appropriates \$30 million to DNR for waterways dredging	Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee
SB 214	Sen. Tom Casperson	R	Expand appropriate use of MNRTF dollars	Referred to Senate Natural Resources, Environment, and Great Lakes Committee
SB 215	Sen. Jack Brandenburg	R	Reinstate state marina dredging loan program	Referred to Senate Outdoor Recreation & Tourism Committee
SB 218	Sen. Goeffrey Hansen	R	Allow water resource improvement tax increment finance authority to continue, and allow dredging	Public Act 25 of 2013
SB 229	Sen. John Moolenaar	R	Clarify that MNRTF dollars can be used for recreational dredging	On Senate Floor
SB 233	Sen. Darwin Boohar	R	Appropriates MNRTF projects for FY 2012	PA 9 of 2013
SB 243	Sen. Darwin Boohar	R	Requires half of Waterways Commission spending over next three fiscal years to be dedicated to recreational boating infrastructure, including breakwalls & dredging	Passed Senate, Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources
SB 252	Sen. Jack Brandenburg	R	Establishes marina dredging loan origination program	PA 10 of 2013
SB 264	Sen. Tom Casperson	R	Modify procedures for dredging permit issuance	PA 87 of 2013
SB 266	Sen. Mike Green	R	Authorize permits for oceangoing vessels on the Great Lakes if ballast tanks have been flushed with seawater	Referred to Senate Natural Resources, Environment, and Great Lakes Committee
SB 351	Sen. Arlan Meekhof	R	Clarifies that appropriate application of fertilizer is not a release	Senate Floor

SB 394	Sen. Hune	R	Prohibit DEQ from limiting sodium concentration in groundwater discharge	Referred to Senate Natural Resources, Environment, and Great Lakes Committee
SB 444	Sen. Casperson	R	Revises aquatic species permit requirements, creates aquatic species database and website identifying infested lakes, and allows local ordinances and fees for aquatic nuisance control	Referred to Senate Natural Resources, Environment, and Great Lakes Committee
SB 445	Sen. Booher	R	Remove Departmental authority to revise list of prohibited or restricted species	Referred to Senate Natural Resources, Environment, and Great Lakes Committee