



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

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**CONVEY TROUT STATION WATERSMEET**

**Senate Bill 520 with House committee amendments**  
**First Analysis (5-25-88)** **RECEIVED**

**Sponsor: Senator Joseph Mack**  
**Senate Committee: State Affairs,** JUL 08 1988  
**Tourism, and Transportation**  
**House Committee: State Affairs** Mich. State Law Library

***THE APPARENT PROBLEM:***

The 40-acre Watersmeet Trout Rearing Station in Gogebic County has not been used as a fish rearing site since 1960. The county, however, would like to assume control of the site and use it to expand its county park located on the Ontonagon River. Transfer of the property to the county was authorized in 1984 by the Natural Resources Commission, providing that special legislation to effect the transfer was approved.

***THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:***

The bill would allow the Department of Natural Resources to convey the 40-acre Watersmeet Trout Rearing Station to the Gogebic County Road Commission for consideration of \$1, which would be credited to the state's general fund. The property would have to be used for county park purposes and upon termination of this use, or upon use for any other purpose, title to the land would have to revert immediately to the state, which would not be liable for improvements made at the county's expense. In addition, the bill would specify that the county park located on the property would have to be open to all state residents on the same terms, fees and conditions. The conveyance would be made by quitclaim deed, reserving to the state all coal, oil, gas and metallic mineral rights.

***HOUSE COMMITTEE ACTION:***

The State Affairs Committee amended the bill to require that the county park on the conveyed land be open to all state residents on the same terms.

***FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:***

According to the Senate Fiscal Agency, the conveyance would relieve the state from annual \$100 payments made in lieu of taxes, and from any indirect costs associated with administration of the property. (2-29-88)

***ARGUMENTS:***

***For:***

Transfer of the fish rearing station to Gogebic County would enable the county to upgrade and expand its park, and would relieve the Department of Natural Resources of the administrative responsibility for the site.

***For:***

The bill would ensure that the county park located on the property being transferred would be available for use by all residents of the state upon equal terms.

***POSITIONS:***

The Department of Natural Resources supports the bill. (5-24-88)

S.B. 520 (5-25-88)