

HOUSE BILL No. 4223

March 3, 1987, Introduced by Reps. Hart, Harrison, Scott, Farhat, Webb, Niederstadt, Watkins, Browne, Dobronski, Varga, Mathieu, DeMars, Kosteva, Middaugh, Munsell, Gubow, Jonker, Allen, Perry Bullard, Hickner and DeBeaussaert and referred to the Committee on Education.

A bill to amend Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1976,
entitled as amended

"The school code of 1976,"

as amended, being sections 380.1 to 380.1852 of the Michigan
Compiled Laws, by adding section 1171a.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Section 1. Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1976, as
2 amended, being sections 380.1 to 380.1852 of the Michigan
3 Compiled Laws, is amended by adding section 1171a to read as
4 follows:

5 SEC. 1171A. (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION:

6 (A) "LAND ETHIC EDUCATION" MEANS EDUCATION DEALING WITH THE
7 RELATIONSHIP OF PUPILS AND OTHERS IN THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY WITH
8 NATURE THROUGH THEIR NATURE STUDY AREA.

1 (B) "NATURE STUDY AREA" MEANS AN AREA OF PUBLIC SCHOOL LAND
2 OR NEARBY PUBLIC LAND OR CONTRACTUALLY AGREED UPON USE OF PRIVATE
3 LAND POSSESSING NATURAL HISTORY STUDY VALUES. A PREFERRED NATURE
4 STUDY AREA WOULD MEASURE NOT LESS THAN 1 GUNTER'S CHAIN SQUARED,
5 THAT IS, 4,356 SQUARE FEET, AND BE SO LOCATED AS TO BE AVAILABLE
6 FOR GENERAL USE IN NATURE STUDY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF KNOWLEDGE
7 OF NATURAL PROCESSES OTHERWISE KNOWN AS LAND ETHIC EDUCATION. A
8 NATURE STUDY AREA SHALL INCLUDE LAND IN ITS NATURAL STATE AND MAY
9 INCLUDE MAN-MADE PONDS AND NATIVE MICHIGAN TREES, SHRUBS, AND
10 WILDFLOWERS PLANTED TO ENHANCE THE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF NONHU-
11 MAN SPECIES IN THE SCHOOL NEIGHBORHOOD.

12 (2) EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN 1 OR MORE
13 NATURE STUDY AREAS WITHIN ITS BOUNDARIES. A NATURE STUDY AREA
14 SHALL BE DESIGNED TO INCREASE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AMONG NONHUMAN
15 SPECIES AND SHALL BE USED TO MAKE PUPILS AWARE OF THE INTERRELA-
16 TIONSHIP BETWEEN HUMAN BEINGS AND THE LAND AND OF THE NATURAL
17 PROCESSES THAT HAVE OCCURRED AND WILL OCCUR UPON THE LAND. A
18 NATURE STUDY AREA ALSO SHALL BE USED AS A MODEL OF HOW PUBLIC
19 SCHOOL LAND CAN BE MANAGED TO COMBAT MAJOR THREATS TO CIVILIZA-
20 TION, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, SOIL EROSION, THE EXTINCTION
21 OF NONHUMAN SPECIES, THE DEPLETION OF OIL RESERVES, GROUNDWATER
22 CONTAMINATION, AND AIR POLLUTION.

23 (3) A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT INTENDS TO HAVE A NATURE STUDY
24 AREA SHALL ENCOURAGE THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE PUPILS AND THE SCHOOL
25 COMMUNITY IN THE PLANNING, PLANTING, AND GENERAL PREPARATION OF
26 THE SITE OF THEIR NATURE STUDY AREA.

1 (4) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE ON-GOING CONSULTING
2 SERVICES TO DISTRICTS THAT IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION. THESE
3 SERVICES MAY BE PROVIDED IN COOPERATION WITH THE STAFF OF THE
4 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF
5 AGRICULTURE.