

# SENATE BILL No. 744

September 30, 2003, Introduced by Senators BIRKHOLZ, BASHAM and SANBORN and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs.

A bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled "Natural resources and environmental protection act," by amending section 2505 (MCL 324.2505), as added by 1995 PA 60, and by adding section 2505a.

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

1       Sec. 2505. (1) The environmental education fund is created  
2 within the state treasury.

3       (2) The state treasurer shall direct the investment of the  
4 fund. The state treasurer may receive money or other assets from  
5 any source for deposit into the fund. Interest and earnings from  
6 fund investments shall be credited to the fund.

7       (3) Twenty-five percent of the civil fines collected annually  
8 under the following parts or their predecessor acts, but not more  
9 than \$150,000.00 in any fiscal year, shall be appropriated to the  
10 fund:

1 (a) Part 31.

2 (b) Part 111.

3 (c) Part 115.

4 (4) Money in the fund at the close of the fiscal year shall  
5 remain in the fund and shall not lapse to the general fund.

6 (5) Money in the fund shall be used ~~to~~ for the following  
7 purposes:

8 (a) For state fiscal years ending September 30, 2003,  
9 September 30, 2004, and September 30, 2005, \$50,000.00 per year  
10 for the T.E.A.C.H. award grant program created in section 2505a.

11 (b) To implement this part, ~~and may be used for~~ including  
12 the establishment and operation of a clearinghouse of  
13 environmental education materials, which would make environmental  
14 education materials available to educators throughout the state.

15 Sec. 2505a. (1) The coordinator shall establish a teacher  
16 environmental and conservation honors award, which may be  
17 referred to as the T.E.A.C.H. award. The T.E.A.C.H. award shall  
18 be given to teachers in the state who demonstrate teaching  
19 excellence in the field of K-12 environmental education. The  
20 T.E.A.C.H. award may also include a grant to implement a specific  
21 K-12 environmental education project administered by the  
22 T.E.A.C.H. award recipient.

23 (2) The coordinator shall annually administer the  
24 T.E.A.C.H. award and the corresponding grant program.  
25 Nominations for T.E.A.C.H. awards shall be submitted to the  
26 coordinator in a manner required by the coordinator and  
27 containing information required by the coordinator. Any person

1 may nominate a teacher for a T.E.A.C.H award. A corresponding  
2 grant to a T.E.A.C.H. award recipient shall comply with the  
3 following:

4 (a) The T.E.A.C.H. award nominee shall provide a specific  
5 project proposal describing how the grant would be used.

6 (b) The maximum amount of each grant shall be \$5,000.00.  
7 However, a T.E.A.C.H award recipient is eligible to receive more  
8 than 1 grant.

9 (c) The grant shall be for the implementation of an  
10 environmental education project that focuses on providing a  
11 learning experience for students to become better stewards of the  
12 state's natural resources. Environmental education projects in  
13 any of the following areas shall be considered for grants:

14 (i) Great Lakes and water quality.

15 (ii) Land conservation.

16 (iii) Air quality.

17 (3) From among the T.E.A.C.H. award recipients, the  
18 coordinator shall annually select 1 recipient to be honored as  
19 the state's "environmental education teacher of the year". The  
20 coordinator shall provide appropriate recognition to the  
21 recipient of this award.

22 (4) By October 31, 2005, the department shall prepare and  
23 submit to the members of the legislature a report that evaluates  
24 the T.E.A.C.H. award and grant program. The report shall specify  
25 all of the following:

26 (a) For each T.E.A.C.H. award that was given, the name of the  
27 recipient and the school where he or she taught on the date the

1 award was given.

2 (b) If a grant was made to a teacher receiving a  
3 T.E.A.C.H. award, the amount of the grant and how the grant was  
4 used.

5 (c) The department's evaluation of the T.E.A.C.H. award and  
6 grant program and whether they should be continued.