

Act No. 252  
Public Acts of 1998  
Approved by the Governor  
July 10, 1998  
Filed with the Secretary of State  
July 10, 1998  
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 10, 1998

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
89TH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 1998

**Introduced by Reps. Kilpatrick, Alley and Middaugh**

# **ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 5399**

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, and assessments; to provide certain appropriations; to prescribe penalties and provide remedies; to repeal certain parts of this act on a specific date; and to repeal certain acts and parts of acts," by amending sections 61501, 61524, and 61525 (MCL 324.61501, 324.61524, and 324.61525), section 61501 as amended by 1998 PA 115 and sections 61524 and 61525 as added by 1995 PA 57, and by adding sections 61506a, 61525a, and 61525b.

*The People of the State of Michigan enact:*

Sec. 61501. Unless the context requires a different meaning, the words defined in this section have the following meanings when used in this part:

- (a) "Department" means the department of environmental quality.
- (b) "Field" means an underground reservoir or reservoirs containing oil or gas, or both. Field also includes the same general surface area that is underlaid or appears to be underlaid by at least 1 pool. Field and pool have the same meaning if only 1 underground reservoir is involved. However, field, unlike pool, may relate to 2 or more pools.
- (c) "Fund" means the oil and gas regulatory fund created in section 61525b.
- (d) "Gas" means a mixture of hydrocarbons and varying quantities of nonhydrocarbons in a gaseous state which may or may not be associated with oil, and includes those liquids resulting from condensation.
- (e) "Illegal container" means a receptacle that contains illegal oil or gas or illegal products.
- (f) "Illegal conveyance" means a conveyance by or through which illegal oil or gas or illegal products are being transported.
- (g) "Illegal oil or gas" means oil or gas that has been produced by an owner or producer in violation of this part, a rule promulgated under this part, or an order of the supervisor issued under this part.
- (h) "Illegal product" means a product of oil or gas or any part of a product of oil or gas that was knowingly processed or derived in whole or in part from illegal oil or gas.
- (i) "Market demand" means the actual demand for oil or gas from any particular pool or field for current requirements for current consumption and use within or outside the state, together with the demand for such amounts as are necessary for building up or maintaining reasonable storage reserves of oil or gas or the products of oil or gas.

(j) "Oil" means natural crude oil or petroleum and other hydrocarbons, regardless of gravity, that are produced at the well in liquid form by ordinary production methods and that are not the result of condensation of gas after it leaves the underground reservoir.

(k) "Owner" means the person who has the right to drill a well into a pool, to produce from a pool, and to receive and distribute the value of the production from the pool for himself or herself either individually or in combination with others.

(l) "Person" means any natural person, corporation, association, partnership, receiver, trustee, so-called common law or statutory trust, guardian, executor, administrator, and a fiduciary of any kind.

(m) "Pool" means an underground reservoir containing a common accumulation of oil or gas, or both. Pool includes a productive zone of a general structure that is completely separated from any other zone in the structure, or is declared to be a pool by the supervisor of wells.

(n) "Producer" means the operator, whether owner or not, of a well or wells capable of producing oil or gas or both in paying quantities.

(o) "Product" means any commodity or thing made or manufactured from oil or gas, and all derivatives of oil or gas, including refined crude oil, crude tops, topped crude, processed crude petroleum, residue from crude petroleum, cracking stock, uncracked fuel oil, fuel oil, treated crude oil, residuum, gas oil, naphtha, distillate, gasoline, casing-head gasoline, natural gas gasoline, kerosene, benzine, wash oil, waste oil, lubricating oil, and blends or mixtures of oil or gas or any derivatives of oil or gas whether enumerated or not.

(p) "Supervisor" or "supervisor of wells" means the department.

(q) "Tender" means a permit or certificate of clearance, approved and issued or registered under the authority of the supervisor, for the transportation of oil or gas or products.

(r) "Waste" in addition to its ordinary meaning includes all of the following:

(i) "Underground waste", as those words are generally understood in the oil business, and including all of the following:

(A) The inefficient, excessive, or improper use or dissipation of the reservoir energy, including gas energy and water drive, of any pool, and the locating, spacing, drilling, equipping, operating, or producing of a well or wells in a manner to reduce or tend to reduce the total quantity of oil or gas ultimately recoverable from any pool.

(B) Unreasonable damage to underground fresh or mineral waters, natural brines, or other mineral deposits from operations for the discovery, development, and production and handling of oil or gas.

(ii) "Surface waste", as those words are generally understood in the oil business, and including all of the following:

(A) The unnecessary or excessive surface loss or destruction without beneficial use, however caused, of gas, oil, or other product, but including the loss or destruction, without beneficial use, resulting from evaporation, seepage, leakage, or fire, especially a loss or destruction incident to or resulting from the manner of spacing, equipping, operating, or producing a well or wells, or incident to or resulting from inefficient storage or handling of oil.

(B) The unnecessary damage to or destruction of the surface; soils; animal, fish, or aquatic life; property; or other environmental values from or by oil and gas operations.

(C) The drilling of unnecessary wells.

(iii) "Market waste", which includes the production of oil or gas in any field or pool in excess of the market demand as defined in this part.

Sec. 61506a. Upon completion of an inspection under this part, the supervisor shall notify the owner or operator of the well of any violation of this or any other part of this act that is identified during the inspection.

Sec. 61524. (1) For the purposes of monitoring, surveillance, enforcement, and administration of this part, a fee not in excess of 1%, based upon the gross cash market value, is levied upon oil and gas produced in this state. The fee shall be collected by the revenue division of the department of treasury in the same manner, at the same time, and subject to the provisions of the tax levied by 1929 PA 48, MCL 205.301 to 205.317.

(2) The fee shall be computed as follows:

(a) The director of the department of management and budget, on or before November 1, shall certify to the department of treasury the amount appropriated for the fiscal year for the purposes of monitoring, surveillance, enforcement, and administration of this part.

(b) The department shall estimate the total production and gross cash market value of all oil and gas that will be produced in this state during the fiscal year ending September 30, and shall certify its estimate to the department of treasury on or before November 1.

(c) Within 30 days after the effective date of the 1998 amendments to this section and on or before December 1 of each succeeding year, the department of treasury shall determine the fee as follows:

(i) If the fund balance is less than \$7,000,000.00 as of the end of the fiscal year immediately prior to November 1, the fee shall be 1% of the gross cash market value of oil and gas produced, or an amount calculated to cause the fund to accumulate to \$7,000,000.00 at the end of the current fiscal year, whichever is less.

(ii) If the fund balance is equal to or exceeds \$7,000,000.00 as of the end of the fiscal year immediately prior to November 1, the fee shall be the ratio, to the nearest 1/100 of 1%, that the appropriation bears to the total gross cash market value of the oil and gas that will be produced in this state as estimated by the department as provided in subdivision (b).

(iii) Any money accumulated in the fund in excess of \$7,000,000.00 as of the end of the fiscal year shall be deducted from the following year's appropriation in determining an amount to be certified by the director of the department of management and budget to the department of treasury for computing the annual fee provided for in this section.

(d) The percentage determined pursuant to subdivision (c) shall not exceed 1% and shall be the fee beginning the first of the following month and will continue to be the fee for the next 12 months and until a different fee is determined. However, the fee shall be 1% beginning the first day of the second month after the effective date of the 1998 amendments to this section and will continue to be the fee for the remainder of that calendar year.

(3) The proceeds of the fee provided for in this section shall be forwarded to the state treasurer for deposit into the fund.

Sec. 61525. (1) A person shall not drill or begin the drilling of any well for oil or gas, for secondary recovery, or a well for the disposal of salt water, or brine produced in association with oil or gas operations or other oil field wastes, or wells for the development of reservoirs for the storage of liquid or gaseous hydrocarbons, until the owner directly or through his or her authorized representatives applies to drill any such well, files with the supervisor a bond as provided in section 61506, and receives and posts in a conspicuous place at the location of the well a permit as provided in the rules and requirements or orders issued or promulgated by the supervisor. A fee of \$300.00 shall be charged for a permit to drill a well subject to this part. Upon receiving and accepting a written application and payment of the fee required, the supervisor shall within 10 days after that date issue to an owner or his or her authorized representative a permit to drill. A permit to drill shall not be issued to an owner or his or her authorized representative who does not comply with the rules and requirements or orders issued or promulgated by the supervisor. A permit shall not be issued to an owner or his or her authorized representative who has not complied with or is in violation of this part or any of the rules, requirements, or orders issued or promulgated by the supervisor or the department.

(2) The supervisor shall forward all fees received under this section to the state treasurer for deposit in the fund.

Sec. 61525a. The owner or operator of a well used for injection, withdrawal, or observation related to the storage of natural gas or liquefied petroleum gas that has been used for its permitted purpose at any time during the calendar year immediately prior to the time the fee is due is subject to a \$20.00 annual well regulatory fee. The owner or operator of a well described in this section shall file an annual report by January 31 of each year stating the number of wells used for injection, withdrawal, or observation related to the storage of natural gas or liquefied petroleum gas that has been utilized for its permitted purpose during the previous calendar year. The report shall include a list of wells identified by permit number, permit name, and gas storage field name on a form provided by the supervisor, or such other form which may be acceptable to the supervisor. The annual well regulatory fee described in this section is due not more than 30 days after the supervisor sends notice to the owner or operator of the amount due. The supervisor shall forward all fees collected under this section to the state treasurer for deposit into the fund.

Sec. 61525b. (1) The oil and gas regulatory fund is created within the state treasury.

(2) The state treasurer may receive money or other assets from any source for deposit into the fund. The state treasurer shall direct the investment of the fund. The state treasurer shall credit to the fund interest and earnings from fund investments.

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

(4) The department shall expend money from the fund, upon appropriation, only for monitoring, surveillance, enforcement, and administration of this part.

(5) The department shall annually submit a report to the legislature that itemizes the expenditure of money in the fund. The report shall include, at a minimum, all of the following:

(a) The amount of money received and the amount of money expended.

(b) The number of full-time equivalent positions funded with money in the fund.

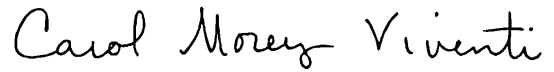
(c) The number of on-site inspections conducted by the department in implementing this part.

(d) The number of violations identified in enforcing this part, their locations, and a description of the nature of the violations.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.



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Clerk of the House of Representatives.



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Secretary of the Senate.

Approved -----

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Governor.