

**Michigan Association
For
Local Environmental Health
Administrators**



Resolution by Michigan Association for Local Public Health (MALPH) opposing House Bill 5145 which amends the Public Health Code allowing individuals to request an extension of time to connect to a municipal sewer system provided that their septic tank disposal system is in satisfactory condition;

WHEREAS, Public sanitary sewer systems are essential to the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state; and

WHEREAS, Septic tank disposal systems are subject to failure due to age, lack of maintenance, soil conditions and several other uncontrolled factors; and

WHEREAS, Failure or potential failure of septic tank disposal systems poses a threat to the public health, safety, and welfare; presents a potential for ill health, transmission of disease, mortality, and constitutes a threat to the quality of surface and groundwater of this state; and

WHEREAS, The connection to available public sanitary sewer systems at the earliest, reasonable date is a matter for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare and necessary in the public interest; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 5145 may delay or stop efforts for sewer extensions in areas of environmental health need and have significant implications for local planning efforts to determine costs to residents based upon an uncertain number of users; and

WHEREAS, The Public Health Code Sec.12753; 12756; and 12757 already provides for local government's flexibility in requiring connection to an available public sanitary sewer system; and

WHEREAS, There is significant potential fiscal impact on local health departments to provide services to determine if the septic tank disposal systems are in satisfactory operating condition;

Therefore be it resolved that Michigan Association for Local Public Health hereby opposes House Bill 5145 to amend Michigan's Public Health Code.

Eric Pessell, REHS, President
Michigan Association of Local Environmental Health Administrators

Adopted by the Michigan Association for Local Public Health Board of Directors, December 8, 2003.

Public Health Code (PA 368 of 1978)
Sections referenced in MALEHA resolution regarding HB 5145

333.12752 Public sanitary sewer systems; declaration of necessity.

Sec. 12752. Public sanitary sewer systems are essential to the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the state. Septic tank disposal systems are subject to failure due to soil conditions or other reasons. Failure or potential failure of septic tank disposal systems poses a threat to the public health, safety, and welfare; presents a potential for ill health, transmission of disease, mortality, and economic blight; and constitutes a threat to the quality of surface and subsurface waters of this state. The connection to available public sanitary sewer systems at the earliest, reasonable date is a matter for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare and necessary in the public interest which is declared as a matter of legislative determination.

History: 1978, Act 368, Eff. Sept. 30, 1978.

Popular name: Act 368

333.12753 Structures in which sanitary sewage originates to be connected to public sanitary sewer; approval; time.

Sec. 12753. (1) Structures in which sanitary sewage originates lying within the limits of a city, village, or township shall be connected to an available public sanitary sewer in the city, village, or township if required by the city, village, or township.

(2) Structures in which sanitary sewage originates lying outside the limits of the city, village, or township in which the available public sanitary sewer lies shall be connected to the available public sanitary sewer after the approval of both the city, village, or township in which the structure and the public sanitary sewer system lies and if required by the city, village, or township in which the sewage originates.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (4), the connection provided for in subsections (1) and (2) shall be completed promptly but not later than 18 months after the date of occurrence of the last of the following events or before the city, village, or township in which the sewage originates requires the connection:

(a) Publication of a notice by the governmental entity which operates the public sanitary sewer system of availability of the public sanitary sewer system in a newspaper of general circulation in the city, village, or township in which the structure is located.

(b) Modification of a structure so as to become a structure in which sanitary sewage originates.

(4) A city, village, or township may enact ordinances, or a county or district board of health, may adopt regulations to require completion of the connection within a shorter period of time for reasons of public health.

History: 1978, Act 368, Eff. Sept. 30, 1978.

Popular name: Act 368

333.12756 Tap-in fee for connection; deferment of payment by reason of hardship; application; evidence of hardship; ordinance defining hardship and permitting deferred or partial payment; condition to granting deferred or partial payment.

Sec. 12756. (1) An owner of property who by reason of hardship is unable to comply with provisions of sections 12752 to 12758 requiring connection to an available sanitary sewer system when the local unit of government charges a tap-in fee for connection may have the fee payment deferred by application to the assessing officer. Upon receipt of evidence of hardship, the local unit of government may defer partial or total payment of the fee.

(2) The local unit of government may enact ordinances to define hardship in its area and to permit deferred or partial payment of the tap-in fee. As a condition to the granting of the deferred or partial payment of the tap-in fee, the local unit of government may require mortgage security on the real property of the beneficiary payable on or before death, or, in any event, on the sale or transfer of the property.

History: 1978, Act 368, Eff. Sept. 30, 1978.

Popular name: Act 368

333.12757 Installation and use of acceptable innovative or alternative waste treatment system alone or in combination with acceptable alternative greywater system; regulation by local health department; guidelines; exemption from special assessments not permitted; connection to available public sanitary sewer system not required; payment of sewer availability fee in lieu of connection or user fees; exemption from connection or user fees.

Sec. 12757. (1) Notwithstanding sections 12752 to 12756, a person may install and use in a structure an acceptable innovative or alternative waste treatment system or an acceptable innovative or alternative waste treatment system in combination with an acceptable alternative greywater system. The installation and use of an acceptable innovative or alternative waste treatment system or an acceptable innovative or alternative waste treatment system in combination with an acceptable alternative greywater system in a structure shall be subject to regulation by the local health department in accordance with the ordinances and regulations of the local units of government in which the structure lies. A local health

department may inspect each acceptable innovative or alternative waste treatment system within its jurisdiction at least once each year to determine if it is being properly operated and maintained. A local health department may charge the owner of an acceptable innovative or alternative waste treatment system a reasonable fee for such an inspection and for the plan review and installation inspection. A copy of the approved application or permit to install and use an alternative system and a copy of each maintenance inspection report shall be forwarded to the department and to the local unit of government in which the structure lies. The department shall maintain a record of approved alternative systems and their maintenance and operation.

(2)The department, after consultation with the state plumbing board, shall adopt guidelines to assist local health departments in determining what are acceptable alternative greywater systems and what are acceptable innovative or alternative waste treatment systems. The department shall advise local health departments regarding the appropriate installation and use of acceptable innovative or alternative waste treatment systems and acceptable innovative or alternative waste treatment systems in combination with acceptable alternative greywater systems.

(3)A person who installs and uses an acceptable innovative or alternative waste treatment system or an acceptable innovative or alternative waste treatment system in combination with an acceptable alternative greywater system shall not be exempt from any special assessments levied by a local unit of government for the purpose of financing the construction of an available public sanitary sewer system.

(4)Notwithstanding sections 12752 to 12756, an owner of a structure using an acceptable innovative or alternative waste treatment system in combination with an acceptable alternative greywater system shall not be required to connect to an available public sanitary sewer system.

(5)An owner who does not connect to an available public sanitary sewer system pursuant to subsection (4), shall not be required to pay connection or user fees to a local unit of government except those connection or user fees which are allocated for financing of construction of an available public sanitary sewer system. In lieu of connection or user fees, an owner may be required by the local unit of government to pay a sewer availability fee if that fee is to be used for the purpose of paying a proportionate share of financing the construction of an existing available public sanitary sewer system. The exemption from connection or user fees under this subsection shall not apply to an owner connected to an available public sanitary sewer system on the effective date of this act.

(6)A local unit of government may exempt an owner proposing to use an acceptable innovative or alternative waste treatment system in combination with an acceptable alternative greywater system from connection or user fees related to the financing, construction, use, or maintenance of an available public sanitary sewer system.

History: Add. 1980, Act 421, Eff. Mar. 31, 1981.

Popular name: Act 368