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Title: Promote Recycling in Michigan

Introduced by: Laura Carravallah, MD, for the Genesee County Delegation

Original Authors: Adrianna Jackson, Jacqueline Mercado, Alex Mikhail, Mustafa Mohamed, and Rachel Santay

Referred to: Reference Committee B

House Action: **APPROVED AS AMENDED**

Whereas, MSMS Policy states MSMS supports recycling materials whenever possible and purchasing recycled products¹, and

Whereas, over 40 percent of municipal solid waste in Michigan could be recycled using standard, curbside recycling², and

Whereas, in 2013, only two of every three Michigan residents had access to curbside recycling or a convenient drop-off facility, and many residents living in Northern Michigan or the Upper Peninsula had no such access³, and

Whereas, in December 2018, former Governor Snyder signed Senate Bill 601 into law, allocating roughly \$24 million a year toward recycling and landfill oversight in Michigan, in order to improve the recycling rate^{4,5}, but no new studies have been conducted to measure any increase in recycling rate, and

Whereas, the recycling rate in Michigan is likely well below the national average because of a lack of public awareness and lack of convenient access to recycling, and

Whereas, Resource Recycling Systems, the consulting firm specializing in recycling that prepared the 2015 report on recycling in Michigan, has suggested that public education around recycling is “probably the most important (factor) for keeping a quality system (of recycling) going,”⁶ and

Whereas, increasing recycling rates will mitigate the environmental impact of the disposal of municipal solid waste, by avoiding the use of landfills and thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions, such as methane, and “reduce air and water pollution associated with making new products from raw materials,”⁷ and

Whereas, 25.5 percent of all solid waste in Michigan’s landfills came from out-of-state sources in fiscal year 2016⁸, likely due to Michigan’s low landfill tipping fee of \$0.36/ton, attracting other states and Canada to dump their trash in Michigan⁹, and

Whereas, landfills also negatively impact the neighborhoods around them, through increased noise, odors, and possible groundwater and air pollution¹⁰, and 18 of the 89 Superfund sites in Michigan are former landfills¹¹, and

Whereas, residents living near landfills are at risk for adverse health effects including but not limited to low birth weight, birth defects and cancers¹², and

Whereas, numerous studies have demonstrated an association between environmental waste exposure and increased rates of spontaneous abortions, stillbirths, intrauterine growth restriction and premature births¹³; therefore be it

55 RESOLVED: That MSMS support legislation allocating resources to promote recycling in the state of
56 Michigan including advertising curbside recycling and local recycling centers; and be it further

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58 RESOLVED: That MSMS support legislation to increase the Michigan landfill tipping fee to
59 discourage the use of Michigan landfills by neighboring states and countries in order to preserve the quality
60 of Michigan's environment for years to come.

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63 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: \$25,000 or more as this resolution directs MSMS to engage in
64 governmental advocacy.

Relevant MSMS Policy:

Recycling

MSMS supports recycling materials whenever possible and purchasing recycled products. (Res60-90A)
– Edited 1998

Policy Statement of Environmental Pollution

MSMS supports efforts to improve environmental health. MSMS supports all agencies charged with the control of environmental pollution. (Prior to 1990)

- Edited 1998
- Reaffirmed (Res35-05A)
- Reaffirmed (Res02-16)

Relevant AMA Policy:

Green Initiatives and the Health Care Community H-135.939

Our AMA supports: (1) responsible waste management and clean energy production policies that minimize health risks, including the promotion of appropriate recycling and waste reduction; (2) the use of ecologically sustainable products, foods, and materials when possible; (3) the development of products that are non-toxic, sustainable, and ecologically sound; (4) building practices that help reduce resource utilization and contribute to a healthy environment; and (5) community-wide adoption of 'green' initiatives and activities by organizations, businesses, homes, schools, and government and health care entities.

¹ Official Policies of the Michigan State Medical Society. msms.org. https://www.msms.org/Portals/0/Documents/MSMS/About_MSMS/2018percent20MSMSpercent20Policypercent20Manual.pdf?ver=2018-12-11-112410-523, Published December 11, 2018. Accessed February 4, 2019.

² Economic Impact Potential and Characterization of Municipal Solid Waste in Michigan 2016. Michigan.org. https://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/480236-14_WMSBF_waste_characterization_report_521920_7.PDF. Published 2016. Accessed February 24, 2019

³ Measuring Recycling in the State of Michigan. Michiganrecycles.org. <http://www.michiganrecycles.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/MRIP2Objective1ReportFinal.pdf>. Published May 2015. Accessed February 4, 2019.

⁴ VanHulle L, Malewitz J. Michigan lawmakers dole out \$1B in wee hours, lame-duck spending spree. Petoskeynews.com. https://www.petoskeynews.com/michigan-lawmakers-dole-out-b-in-wee-hours-lame-duck/article_3f1c2c8c-1469-529b-b967-4147cd2927ec.html. Published December 24, 2018. Accessed February 4, 2019.

⁵ Act No. 618. Legislature.mi.gov. <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2017-2018/publicact/pdf/2018-PA-0618.pdf>. Published December 28, 2018. Accessed February 4, 2019.

⁶ Williams, R. Flint does have a recycling program, but not a lot of people use it. Michiganradio.org. <http://www.michiganradio.org/post/flint-does-have-recycling-program-not-lot-people-use-it>. Published January 28, 2016. Accessed February 4, 2019.

⁷ Municipal Solid Waste Generation, Recycling, and Disposal in the United States: Facts and Figures for 2010. Epa.gov. https://archive.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/municipal/web/pdf/msw_2010_factsheet.pdf. Accessed February 24, 2019.

⁸ Report of Solid Waste Landfilled in Michigan. Michigan.gov. https://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/SolidWasteAnnualReport_-_Fiscal_Year_2017_FINAL_612551_7.pdf. Published January 31, 2018. Accessed February 24, 2019.

⁹ Renewing Michigan's Environment. Michigan.gov. https://www.michigan.gov/documents/snyder/Renew.Michigans.Environment.proposal.infographic_612463_7.pdf. Accessed February 24, 2019.

¹⁰ Matheny, Keith. Canadian trash again filling Michigan landfills. Freep.com.

<https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2018/02/19/canadian-garbage-michigan-landfills-solid-waste/337837002>. Published February 19, 2018. Accessed February 24, 2019.

¹¹ Superfund. Epa.gov. <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/search-superfund-sites-where-you-live>. Accessed February 24, 2019.

¹² Vrijheid, M. "Health effects of residence near hazardous waste landfill sites: a review of epidemiologic literature" Environmental health perspectives vol. 108 Suppl 1,Suppl 1 (2000): 101-12.

¹³ Kihal-Talantikite, W. (2017). Systematic literature review of reproductive outcome associated with residential proximity to polluted sites. International journal of health geographics, 16(1), 20.