

**NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT (EXCERPT)**  
**Act 451 of 1994**

PART 305  
NATURAL RIVERS

**324.30501 Definitions.**

Sec. 30501. As used in this part:

(a) "Free flowing" means existing or flowing in natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, riprapping, or other modification.

(b) "Natural river" means a river that has been designated by the department for inclusion in the wild, scenic, and recreational rivers system.

(c) "River" means a flowing body of water or a portion or tributary of a flowing body of water, including streams, creeks, or impoundments and small lakes thereon.

(d) "System" means all of those rivers or portions of rivers designated under this part.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**324.30502 Natural river; designation; purpose; long-range plans; publicity; cooperation.**

Sec. 30502. The department, in the interest of the people of the state and future generations, may designate a river or portion of a river as a natural river area for the purpose of preserving and enhancing its values for water conservation, its free flowing condition, and its fish, wildlife, boating, scenic, aesthetic, floodplain, ecologic, historic, and recreational values and uses. The area shall include adjoining or related lands as appropriate to the purposes of the designation. The department shall prepare and adopt a long-range comprehensive plan for a designated natural river area that sets forth the purposes of the designation, proposed uses of lands and waters, and management measures designed to accomplish the purposes. State land within the designated area shall be administered and managed in accordance with the plan, and state management of fisheries, streams, waters, wildlife, and boating shall take cognizance of the plan. The department shall publicize and inform private and public landowners or agencies as to the plan and its purposes, so as to encourage their cooperation in the management and use of their land in a manner consistent with the plan and the purposes of the designation. The department shall cooperate with federal agencies administering any federal program concerning natural river areas, and with any watershed council established under part 311, when such cooperation furthers the interest of the state.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**324.30503 Qualifications for designation; categories of rivers.**

Sec. 30503. A river qualifying for designation as a natural river area shall possess 1 or more of the natural or outstanding existing values cited in section 30502 and shall be permanently managed for the preservation or enhancement of such values. Categories of natural rivers shall be defined and established by the department, based on the characteristics of the waters and the adjoining lands and their uses, both as existing and as proposed, including such categories as wild, scenic, and recreational. The categories shall be specified in the designation and the long-range comprehensive plan.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**324.30504 Land acquisition; purpose; interest acquired; consent.**

Sec. 30504. The department may acquire lands or interests in lands adjacent to a designated natural river for the purpose of maintaining or improving the river and its environment in conformance with the purposes of the designation and the plan. Interests that may be acquired include, but are not limited to, easements designed to provide for preservation and to limit development, without providing public access and use. Lands or interests in lands shall be acquired under this part only with the consent of the owner.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**324.30505 Federal financial assistance programs; leases; expenditures; purposes.**

Sec. 30505. (1) The department may administer federal financial assistance programs for natural river areas.

(2) The department may enter into a lease or agreement with any person or political subdivision to administer all or part of their lands in a natural river area.

(3) The department may expend funds for works designed to preserve and enhance the values and uses of a natural river area and for construction, management, maintenance, and administration of facilities in a natural river area conforming to the purposes of the designation, if the funds are appropriated by the legislature.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**324.30506 Public hearings; notice.**

Sec. 30506. Before designating a river as a natural river area, the department shall conduct public hearings in the county seat of any county in which a portion of the designated natural river area is located. Notices of the hearings shall be advertised at least twice, not less than 30 days before the hearing, in a newspaper having general circulation in each such county and in at least 1 newspaper having general circulation in the state and 1 newspaper published in the Upper Peninsula.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**324.30507 Land uses; zoning; local ordinances; state rule.**

Sec. 30507. After designation of a river or portion of a river as a natural river area and following the preparation of the long-range comprehensive plan, the department may determine that the uses of land along the river, except within the limits of an incorporated municipality, shall be controlled by zoning contributing to accomplishment of the purposes of this part and the natural river plan. County and township governments are encouraged to establish these zoning controls and additional controls as may be appropriate, including, but not limited to, building and subdivision controls. The department may provide advisory, planning, and cooperative assistance in the drafting of ordinances to establish these controls. If the local unit does not, within 1 year after notice from the department, have in full force and effect a zoning ordinance or interim zoning ordinance established under authority of the acts cited in section 30510, the department, on its own motion, may promulgate a zoning rule in accordance with section 30512. A zoning rule may also be promulgated if the department finds that an adopted or existing zoning ordinance fails to meet adequately guidelines consistent with this part as provided by the department and transmitted to the local units concerned, does not take full cognizance of the purposes and objectives of this part, or is not in accord with the purposes of designation of the river as established by the department.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**324.30508 Zoning ordinance or rule; purpose.**

Sec. 30508. A zoning ordinance adopted by a local unit of government or a zoning rule promulgated by the department shall provide for the protection of the river and its related land resources consistent with the preservation and enhancement of their values and the objectives set forth in section 30502. The ordinance or rule shall protect the interest of the people of the state as a whole. It shall take cognizance of the characteristics of the land and water concerned, surrounding development, and existing uses and provide for conservation of soil, water, stream bed and banks, floodplains, and adjoining uplands.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**324.30509 Zoning ordinance or rule; establishment of districts; powers; distance.**

Sec. 30509. The ordinance or rule shall establish zoning districts within which such uses of land as for agriculture, forestry, recreation, residence, industry, commerce, and additional uses may be encouraged, regulated, or prohibited. It may limit or prohibit the placement of structures of any class or designate their location with relation to the water's edge, to property or subdivision lines, and to flood flows and may limit the subdivision of lands for platting purposes. It may control the location and design of highways and roads and of public utility transmission and distribution lines, except on lands or other interests in real property owned by the utility on

January 1, 1971. It may prohibit or limit the cutting of trees or other vegetation, but such limits shall not apply for a distance of more than 100 feet from the river's edge. It may specifically prohibit or limit mining and drilling for oil and gas, but such limits shall not apply for a distance of more than 300 feet from the river's edge. It may contain other provisions necessary to accomplish the objectives of this part. A zoning rule promulgated by the department shall not control lands more than 400 feet from the river's edge.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995.

**Popular name:** Act 451

### **324.30510 Local zoning ordinance; conformance with applicable law; construction.**

Sec. 30510. A local unit of government, in establishing a zoning ordinance, in addition to the authority and requirements of this part, shall conform to the township zoning act, 1943 PA 184, MCL 125.271 to 125.310, or the county zoning act, 1943 PA 183, MCL 125.201 to 125.240, including, but not limited to, the variance provisions of those acts. Any conflict shall be resolved in favor of the provisions of this part. The powers granted under this part shall be liberally construed in favor of the local unit or the department exercising them, in such manner as to promote the orderly preservation or enhancement of the values of the rivers and related land resources and their use in accordance with a long-range comprehensive general plan to ensure the greatest benefit to the state as a whole.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995;—Am. 2000, Act 17, Imd. Eff. Mar. 8, 2000.

**Popular name:** Act 451

### **324.30511 Districts; valuation for tax purposes.**

Sec. 30511. Upon adoption of a zoning ordinance or rule, certified copies of the maps showing districts shall be filed with the local tax assessing officer and the state tax commission. In establishing true cash value of property within the districts zoned, the assessing officer shall take cognizance of the effect of limits on use established by the ordinance or rule.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995.

**Popular name:** Act 451

### **324.30512 Rules; enforcement; promulgation; variance; existing use.**

Sec. 30512. (1) The department shall prescribe administrative procedures and rules and provide personnel as it considers necessary for the enforcement of a zoning ordinance or rule enacted in accordance with this part. A circuit court, upon petition and a showing by the department that there exists a violation of a rule properly promulgated under this part, shall issue any necessary order to the defendant to correct the violation or to restrain the defendant from further violation of the rule.

(2) The department shall promulgate a zoning rule to implement this part. The rule shall include procedures for receiving and acting upon applications from local units of government or landowners for change of boundaries or change in permitted uses in accordance with chapter 4 of the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.271 to 24.287. An aggrieved party may seek judicial review under chapter 6 of the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.301 to 24.306.

(3) A variance from a zoning rule promulgated by the department to implement this part may be applied for and granted pursuant to section 4 of the uniform condemnation procedures act, 1980 PA 87, MCL 213.54, and the variance provisions of the zoning rule.

(4) The lawful use of any building or structure and of any land or premise as existing and lawful at the time of enactment of a zoning ordinance or rule or of an amendment of a zoning ordinance or rule may be continued although the use does not conform with the ordinance, rule, or amendment. The ordinance or rule shall provide for the completion, restoration, reconstruction, extension, or substitution of nonconforming uses upon reasonable terms as set forth in the zoning ordinance or rule.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995;—Am. 2000, Act 17, Imd. Eff. Mar. 8, 2000.

**Popular name:** Act 451

### **324.30513 National wild and scenic river system; administration.**

Sec. 30513. This part does not preclude a component of the system from becoming a part of the national wild and scenic river system under the wild and scenic rivers act, Public Law 90-542, 16 U.S.C. 1271 to 1287. The department may enter into written cooperative agreements for joint federal-state administration of rivers that may be designated under the wild and scenic rivers act.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**324.30514 Area plans; approval; rules.**

Sec. 30514. The department shall approve preliminary and final plans for site or route location, construction, or enlargement of utility transmission lines, publicly provided recreation facilities, access sites, highways, roads, bridges, or other structures and for publicly developed water management projects, within a designated natural river area, except within the limits of a city or incorporated village. The department may require any measure necessary to control damaging erosion or flow alteration during or in consequence of construction. The department shall promulgate rules concerning the approvals and requirements provided for in this section.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**324.30515 Construction of part.**

Sec. 30515. This part does not prohibit a reasonable and lawful use of any other natural resource that benefits the general welfare of the people of this state and that is not inconsistent with the purpose of this part.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995.

**Popular name:** Act 451

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