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The Associated Press State & Local Wire June 6, 2003

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June 6, 2003, Friday, BC cycle

11:47 AM Eastern Time

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 194 words

HEADLINE: Governor signs bill to allow mechanical beach grooming

DATELINE: LANSING, **Mich.**

BODY:

Beach-front property owners are now able to use a machine to level and groom the top inches of sand on the beach without a permit under a bill signed this week by Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

Manual or mechanical beach maintenance is allowed in up to 4 inches of sand until Nov. 1, 2007.

However, the law will stop after three years in two areas designated by the state Department of Environmental Quality in the **Great Lakes** and Lake St. Clair. The early sunset is intended to allow environmental officials to study the early impact of the law.

Under the law, the DEQ director is required to submit to the governor and state Legislature a report evaluating the beach maintenance activities and recommend any statutory changes.

The law was a compromise between those who said property owners should be able to clean up an increasing amount of vegetation on the shoreline and environmentalists worried that vegetation would be destroyed.

Beach-front property owners have asked for the new law because **Great Lakes** levels have remained low, exposing wide strips of land as new beaches.

On the Net:

<http://www.michiganlegislature.org>

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Mandatory Terms: **date from 05/06/2003**

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