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LANSING



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TO: Natural Resources Commission
Department of Natural Resources Management Team

FROM: Anna Mooney, Legislative Liaison, Legislative & Legal Affairs Office

SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources Legislative Update

HB 6187, 6199-6201 – Straits of Mackinac Safety, Protection and Accountability – Rep. Allor, Cole, and Chatfield

These bills seek to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act and the Code of Criminal Procedure to provide additional protections for the Great Lakes in the Straits of Mackinac where pipelines exist. HB 6187 would require the Department of Natural Resources to install markers, buoys or other signage to indicate to an operator of a vessel that they are in an area where an anchor or other vessel equipment is currently prohibited.

HB 6200 would prohibit the dragging, setting or use of an anchor by a vessel in the Straits of Mackinac, unless granted permission by the Director. HB 6199 would provide clear penalties for an operator of a vessel that is knowingly dragging or using an anchor in an area where it is prohibited, unless by emergency order. Lastly, HB 6201 would require that an owner, operator or manager of a Straits gas or oil pipeline from which a release occurs notify the Department of Environmental Quality immediately. The owner or operator of the pipeline would then be required to submit subsequent reports on the cause of the release, discovery of the release and the response measures taken to prevent reoccurrence or a schedule for completion of measures to take place.

- These bills passed the House and were referred to the Senate for consideration.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 5836, HBs 5988-5989 –Electronic Boater’s Safety Certificate– Rep. Marino, Bellino, LaFave

These bills seek to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual that is required to display their boater’s safety certificate upon request when operating a motorboat to do so electronically. The bill would also require the Department to allow law enforcement agencies to verify that an individual has obtained a boater’s safety certificate.

- These bills passed the House and were referred to the Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 5866 – Sport Fishing – Rep. Bellino

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to make several clarifications in decision making authority from the department to the commission in the section of law pertaining to sport fishing.

- This bill passed the House and was referred to the Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 6293 – Firearm Possession – Rep. LaFave

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual to carry, transport or possess a firearm in an area frequented by wild animals without a hunting license so long as they are not hunting.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 6354/SB 1119 – Increased Penalties – Rep. Cole and Sen. Pavlov

These bills seek to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to double the fines for a recreational trespass violation.

- HB 6354 was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and SB 1119 to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 6355 – Transporting Minnows – Rep. Cole

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual to possess or transport minnows for commercial purposes without a permit or license if the person purchased the minnows from a person that holds a permit or license to take, possess, or transport those minnows.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 6362 – Violation Penalties – Rep. LaFave

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to change the penalties for various violations from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 6365/SB 1120 – Transporting Firearm – Rep. Allor and Sen. Zorn

These bills seek to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual to transport or possess an unloaded and uncased firearm upon a vehicle if the individual is on private property or is traveling along a public highway, road or street that bisects the individual's property. The legislation also proposes to allow an individual to take waterfowl from a boat if the boat's motor has been shut off and the boat's forward progress has ceased, as consistent with language in the Department's Wildlife Conservation Order.

- HB 6365 was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and SB 1120 to the Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 6417 – Deer and Elk Feeding – Rep. Cole

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual to engage in deer and elk feeding so long as the feed is located not more than 600 feet from a residence or structure on private property. The individual would be prohibited from placing or scattering more than 2 gallons of feed within 600 feet of the residence or structure at one time.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 6427 – Windfarm Construction – Rep. Howell

This bill seeks to amend the Clean and Renewable Energy and Energy Waste Reduction Act to prohibit an individual from constructing a wind turbine within two miles of a State Game Area.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

SB 1061 – Memorial Program – Sen. Schuitmaker

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require the Department of Natural Resources to administer a memorial program to allow families choosing cremation a method to honor the deceased's desires to have their final resting place be at a state park.

- This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

SB 1105 – Aquatic Invasive Species Signage – Sen. MacGregor

This bill seeks to amend the Public Improvement Act for Townships to allow for local tax assessments to be used to pay for prevention of aquatic weeds, plants or invasive species. The bill would also allow for funds to be used to pay for signage regarding aquatic weeds, plants or invasive species.

- This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Local Government.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

SB 1106 – Purple Paint – Sen. MacGregor

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow purple paint marks to designate a no trespassing area.

- This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

SR 180/HR 389 – Wild Turkey Licenses – Sen. Pavlov and Rep. Allor

These resolutions encourage the Department to eliminate the wild turkey hunting license application and drawing system and allow for wild turkey licenses to be sold over-the-counter.

- SR 180 was referred to the Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism and HR 389 to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

If you would like to learn more about these and other bills, you can access the Michigan Legislature website at www.legislature.mi.gov.