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LANSING



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TO: Natural Resources Commission
Department of Natural Resources Management Team

FROM: Trevor VanDyke, Director, Legislative & Legal Affairs Office

SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources Legislative Update

PA 185 of 2015 (HB 4239) – Allows Hunting from a Personal Assistive Mobility Device – Rep. Smiley

This new act amends Section 40111 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow individuals, who possess a valid permit for hunting from a standing vehicle, to transport and possess an uncased loaded firearm, if the action is open, and to also discharge the firearm from a personal assistive mobility device (PAMD) to take game. In addition, the 150 yard safety zone applies to firearm hunting only.

PA 187 of 2015 (SB 244) – Provides for Increased Reimbursement and Restitution Values for the Illegal Killing or Possession of Certain Game Species – Sen. Pavlov

This new act amends Section 40119 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to provide for increased reimbursement and restitution values for the illegal killing or possession of certain game species. These species include elk, moose, bear, eagle, hawk and waterfowl.

PA 188 of 2015 (SB 245) – Provides for Increased Penalties for the Illegal Killing, Possessing, Purchasing or Selling of a Bear or an Antlered White-Tailed Deer – Sen. Zorn

This new act amends Section 40118 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to provide for increased penalties for the illegal killing, possessing, purchasing, or selling of a bear or an antlered white-tail deer.

PA 189 of 2015 (SB 246) – Updates the Criminal Procedure Code to Reflect Poaching Penalty Updates – Sen. Zorn

This new act makes a complementary amendment to Section 13e of Chapter XVII of the Code of Criminal Procedure, by updating a reference to the applicable section of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act amended by Public Act 188 of 2015.

SB 446 – Recreational Feeding Ban – Sen. Jones

This bill seeks to amend Section 40111a of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to remove the January 1, 2016 sunset of the Commission's authority to regulate deer and elk feeding in the state.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee of the Whole.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

SB 523 – Creates a Native American Historical Recognition Program – Sen. Schmidt

This bill seeks to amend Section 72114 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to create a Native American Recognition Program.

- This bill was referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

SB 588 – Allows Tribal Conservation Officers to Request Licenses from Individuals for Hunting, Fishing, or Fur Harvesting in the Ceded Territory – Sen. Casperson

This bill seeks to amend Section 43516 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require Tribal Conservation Officers to be in uniform, display proper credentials, and be on duty within the ceded territory. The bill also defines a Tribal Conservation Officer.

- This bill was referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

SB 635 – Establish Qualified nonresident Hunting & Fishing License – Sen. Casperson

The bill seeks to amend Sections 43504, 43523a, 43523b, 43527a, 43528b, and 43532 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to establish a qualified nonresident hunting and fishing license. A qualified nonresident would have to either own land in this state or had previously owned land in this state for 10 consecutive years and be hunting with a family member who is a resident of the state. The qualified nonresident license fees in the bill would be as follows: \$75 base license, \$40 seven day small game license, \$132.50 combination hunt and fish, \$85 additional deer license or antlers deer license, \$40 combination deer license, \$250 wolf license, \$37.50 all species fishing license.

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

HB 4969 – Exemption of Recreation Passport for Vehicles with Historic License Plates at Historic Vehicle Events – Rep. Brunner

This bill seeks to amend Section 74116 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to exempt the requirement of having a recreation passport for a vehicle that is plated with a valid historic registration plate or an authentic Michigan registration plate and is part of a car show, classic car cruise, or other event at a state park dedicated to the history of automobiles.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 4983 – Free Recreation Passport on Free Fishing Weekends – Rep. Rendon

This bill seeks to amend section 74116 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to waive the recreational passport requirement at a state operated public boating access sites or a state park where there is an opportunity to fish on a day that the Department has designated as a free winter fishing day.

- This bill was referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole for consideration.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 5023 – Dark Sky Preserve Program – Rep. Pettalia

This bill seeks to amend section 75102 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to designate the state owned land encompassing Rockport State Recreation, Negwegon State Park, and Thompson’s Harbor State Park as dark sky preserves.

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

HB 5084 – Senior Discounts on Hunting Licenses – Rep. Chirkun

This bill seeks to amend Section 43535 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual who is 65 years or older to obtain a senior base license free of charge. Also, the fee for a senior deer license, a senior wild turkey hunting license, or a senior fur harvester’s license will be discounted from 60% to 80%.

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

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