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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



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TO: Natural Resources Commission

FROM: Craig Brunet, Legislative Liaison

SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources (Department) Legislative Update

HB 4050 – Exempt Certain Game Location Data from FOIA – Rep. Cherry

This bill amends the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to allow for a disclosure exemption of public records revealing the specific location or GPS coordinates of game animals.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate. The bill has been signed into law by the Governor and is Public Act 33 of 2021.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

HB 4080 – Allow Pneumatic Guns During Certain Seasons – Rep. LaFave

This bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to provide the NRC the ability to allow an individual to use a pneumatic gun during any firearm season. The bill would also give the Department the ability to determine whether a pneumatic gun could be allowed during archery season for individual with a disability or physical limitation.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and was referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

HBs 4205 and 4206 – Provide Free Snowmobile Weekend on Snowmobile Trails – Reps. Roth and S. Johnson

House Bill 4205 would require that before the start of each snow mobile season, the Department would be required to designate one weekend in the snowmobile season during which a registration would not be required to operate a snowmobile on snowmobile trails. House Bill 4206 would require that before the start of each snow mobile season, the Department would be required to designate one weekend in the snowmobile season during which a trail permit would not be required to operate a snowmobile on snowmobile trails.

- The bills were passed by the House of Representatives and referred to the Senate awaiting referral to committee.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

HB 4332 (H-1)– Modify Placement of Off-Road Vehicle Stickers – Rep. S. Johnson

This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require the license for a 2-wheel vehicle to be attached to either of the following: centered on the exposed surface of the rear fender or located at a visible place on a front suspension fork.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources
- The Administration is neutral on this legislation.

HB 4363 (H-1) – Modify Time Periods for Certain DNR Land Transactions – Rep. Howell

The bill would extend the time-period for the DNR to approve or deny an application for a proposed exchange of state land and for a proposed sale of surplus land, from 180 days to 210 days. The bill would also require the DNR to provide public notice at least 30 days before making a decision to dispose of, lease, or develop certain public land of more than 80 acres in size.

- The bill was passed by the House and referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, where one hearing has been held.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

HB 4535 and HB 4536 – Prohibit Wheeled Vehicles on Snowmobile Trails – Rep. Borton

House Bill 4535 would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to prohibit wheeled vehicles from driving on snowmobile trails between December 1 to April 1. House Bill 4536 would allow for civil fines collected under HB 4535 to be deposited in recreational snowmobile trail improvement subaccount instead of being revenue for public libraries.

- These bills were reported with recommendation from the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation and awaiting a vote on the house floor.
- The Administration is neutral on this legislation.

HB 4969 – Require Conservation Officers to Wear Body Cameras While on Patrol – Rep. LaFave

House Bill 4969 would require conservation officers to wear body cameras while on patrol.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Military, Veterans and Homeland Security.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

HB 4980 (H-1) – Exempt Drag Racing Prohibition from Statue for Silver Lake State Park – Rep. VanSingel

The bill would amend the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code to establish an exception for activities relating to speed or acceleration contests or drag racing at Silver Lake State Park.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and referred to the Senate Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.
- The Administration is neutral on this legislation.

SB 251 (S-2) – Modify Commercial Fishing Regulations – Sen. McBroom

The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act for the purpose of restricting the DNR's authority to issue Fisheries Orders for the management of the state-licensed commercial fishery. In addition, the bill would make a number of changes including putting current fisheries orders into statute.

- The bill was passed by the Senate and was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation.
- The Administration is neutral on the S-2 version of this legislation.

SB 486 – Modify Membership on the Wolf Management Advisory Council – Sen. McBroom

The bill modifies the membership of the Wolf Management Advisory Council to require all members be residents of the Upper Peninsula unless wolves are found to be present in the Lower Peninsula, if so a majority of the members must be from the Upper Peninsula.

- The bill was passed by the Senate and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.