



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



DANIEL EICHINGER
DIRECTOR

July 16, 2020

TO: Natural Resources Commission

FROM: Craig Brunet, Legislative Liaison

SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources Legislative Update

HBs 4567 (H-5), 4568 (H-5), 4569 (H-5)– Update Commercial Fishing Statute – Reps. O’Malley, Wendzel, Lilly

The legislative package will update the commercial fishing statute. The bills include language that establishes/updates fees and penalties, clarifies authority regarding the commercial fishing industry, updates reporting requirements and codifies several existing practices under administrative rules or Director’s Orders.

- The bills were passed out of the House of Representatives and have referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, where multiple hearings have been held.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 5551 (H-3) – Decriminalize Improper Display of a Snowmobile Registration Decal or Trail Permit – Rep. Alexander

This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of 1994, to make the improper display of a snowmobile registration decal or trail permit sticker to be guilty of a state civil infraction and may be ordered to pay a civil fine of not more than \$150.00.

- The bill was passed by the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation and the House Judiciary Committee and is currently awaiting a vote on the House floor.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 5552 – Allow Export of Live Minnows, Wigglers or Crayfish as Bait – Rep. Alexander

This bill would allow for the export of live minnow, wigglers, or crayfish as bait.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreations and one hearing has been held.
- The Administration opposes this legislation.

HB 5687 – Decriminalize Failure to Exhibit Safety Certificate – Rep. LaFave

The bill would decriminalize failure to exhibit safety certificate for a motorboat, making it a civil infraction instead of a misdemeanor, with a fine of up to \$150.00.

- The bill was passed by the House Committee on Judiciary and is awaiting a vote on the House floor.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 5689 (H-1) – Decriminalize Operation of a Snowmobile Without Safety Certification – Rep. LaFave

The bill would decriminalize failure to present a snowmobile safety certificate to any peace officers upon demand from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction with a fine of up to \$150.00.

- The bill passed by the House Committee on Judiciary and is awaiting a vote on the House floor.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 5697 (H-1)– Modify Penalties for Violations of Certain Hunting Provisions – Rep. Howell

The bill would decriminalize the following hunting provisions from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction with a fine of not more than \$150.00: failure to attach individual's name, driver license number, or sportcard number to a ground blind; failure to attach individual's name, driver license number, or sportcard number to a tree stand, scaffold, or raised platform; and supplemental feeding of deer.

- The bill passed by the House Committee on Judiciary and is awaiting a vote on the House floor.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 5692 – Decriminalize Safety Standards for Snowmobiles – Rep. Markkanen

The bill would decriminalize failure to have safety standards for snowmobile product certification from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction with a fine of up to \$150.00. The bill also decriminalizes operating a snowmobile without a crash helmet from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction with a fine of up to \$150.00.

- The bill passed by the House Committee on Judiciary and is awaiting a vote on the House floor.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 5693 – Decriminalize Off-Road Vehicles Improperly Crossing Street

– Rep. LaFave

The bill would decriminalize improperly crossing a street or road in an off-road vehicle from misdemeanor to a civil infraction with a fine of up to \$150.00.

- The bill passed by the House Committee on Judiciary and is awaiting a vote on the House floor.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 5694 (H-1) – Modify Penalties for Certain Hunting and Fishing Licensing Violations – Rep. S. Johnson

The bill would decriminalize failure to carry your hunting or fishing license to a civil infraction with a fine of not more than \$150.00.

- The bill passed by the House Committee on Judiciary and is awaiting a vote on the House floor.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 5695 (H-1) – Modify Certain Penalties for Certain Fishing Violations – Rep. Mueller

The bill would modify the following fishing violations to a civil infraction with a fine of not more than \$150.00: fails to attach the individual's name and address to tip-ups in violation of section 48703(2); or fishes with more than the authorized number of lines in violation of section 48703(1).

- The bill passed by the House Committee on Judiciary and is awaiting a vote on the House floor.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 5829 – Modify Michigan Trust Fund Board Membership – Rep. Cambensy

The bill would modify the membership of the Michigan Trust Fund Board to require it to include a resident of a county with a population of less than 100,000.

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

HB 5831 – Decriminalize Various Natural Resources Violations – Rep. LaFave

The bill amends multiple sections of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act for various natural resources violations from a misdemeanor to civil infraction. Some of the violations proposed for modification under the bill include illegal taking of game and fish, willfully failing to obey or fleeing from a law enforcement officer while operating on ORV, and various ORV and marine craft violations.

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

SB 989 – Provide Appropriations from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund – Sen. Bumstead

This bill contains the recommendations made by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board for Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant awards for Fiscal Year 2020. The appropriation totals more than \$30.9 million in project funding from the trust fund.

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