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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 4026 – Provide for 2-Year Recreation Passport Renewal – Rep. Eisen

The bill would amend the Motor Vehicle Code to allow for a 2-year renewal of the Recreation Passport when an individual obtains a 2-year vehicle registration.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and is awaiting referral to a Senate Committee.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

HB 4035 – Provide for Lake Level Assessment Fee Reimbursement Under Certain Circumstances – Rep. VanSingel

The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to specify that PILT paid by the Department of Treasury to each county for Department-managed swamp and tax reverted lands is to be in lieu of all special assessments levied against these state lands under existing law, in addition to all other taxes.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and is awaiting referral to a Senate Committee.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

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

The 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 referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

HB 4078 – Allow an Individual to Possess a Loaded Firearm in or on a Vehicle when on Private Property – Rep. LaFave

The bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual to possess or transport a loaded firearm in or upon a vehicle, including an ATV or UTV, if the individual owns the private land or is accompanied by or has permission of the owner or lessee of the private land.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Military, Veterans and Homeland Security and one hearing has been held.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

HB 4126 (H-1) – Update Funding Formula for Pheasant Stamp – Rep. Howell

When PA 262 of 2020 created a pheasant hunting license, it required that all the license revenue be deposited into the Pheasant Subaccount of the Game and Fish Protection Account. HB 4126 allows \$0.35 from each pheasant hunting license sale to be distributed to the Wildlife Resource Protection Fund to comply with PA 451 of 1994, Sec. 43555 and allows for payment of 7.5% commission rate to vendors operating Department license sales terminals to comply with Sec. 43541.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and Senate and signed into law by Governor Whitmer as Public Act 6 of 2021.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

HB 4142 – Decriminalize Certain Snowmobile Penalties – Rep. Coleman

The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to decriminalize specific snowmobile penalties in this state such as, failure to display registration, affixing wrong registration, affixing registration improperly, lost or mutilated registration, and snowmobiling along the highway. The bill would reduce the offense to a state civil infraction subject to a civil infraction of up to \$150.00.

- The bill reported with recommendation from the House Judiciary Committee and is currently awaiting a vote on the House floor.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

HB 4149 (H-1) – Modify Certain Penalties for Certain Fishing Violations – Rep. Damoose

The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to 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 reported with recommendation from the House Judiciary Committee and is currently awaiting a vote on the House floor.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

HB 4151 – 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 up to \$150.00.

- The bill reported with recommendation from the House Judiciary Committee and is currently awaiting a vote on the House floor.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

HB 4152 (H-2) – 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 up to \$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 reported with recommendation from the House Judiciary Committee and is currently awaiting a vote on the House floor.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

HB 4315 – Require Warrants for the DNR to Enter Upon Private Property

– Rep. LaFave

The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to restrict DNR employee's ability to enter upon private property unless they have permission from the land owner or lessee or if they are a DNR peace officer or park and recreation officer with a warrant, reasonably believes evidence of a crime will be destroyed or they are in hot pursuit of criminal suspect.

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

HB 4327 – Extend Temporary Speed Limit Restrictions for Low Elevation Areas

– Rep. Eisen

The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to extend effective period of temporary speed limit restrictions for waters offshore low elevation areas.

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

HB 4332 – 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 referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 4363 – 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 reported with recommendation from the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation and is awaiting a vote on the House floor.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

HB 4415 – Require Probable Cause for Peace Officers to Require Individual to Display Hunting, Fur Harvester’s or Fishing License – Rep. S. Johnson

The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to prohibit a conservation officer, law enforcement officer, or tribal law enforcement officer to require that individual to display his or her hunting, fur harvester's, or fishing license unless the peace officer has probable cause.

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

HB 4470 – Revise Penalty for Illegal Taking of Sturgeon - Rep. Allor

The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to increase the fine for the illegally taking of a sturgeon to \$5,000.00. The statute currently allows for a fine of between \$500.00 to \$2,000.00.

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

HB 4529 – Eliminate ORV Helmet Requirement for Motorcycle Endorsed Operators - Rep. Eisen

The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to eliminate the helmet requirement for operators or passenger on a 4-wheel off-road vehicles if operator has a motorcycle endorsement.

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

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

SB 106 – Allow the Use of Purple Paint to Designate a No Trespassing Area

– Sen. VanderWall

The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to prohibit a person from engaging in recreational activity or trapping on another person's property if, among other things, the property was posted against entry with purple paint marks on trees or posts around the property.

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

SB 149 – Restrict Uses for Camp Curnalia Cottages – Sen. Barrett

The bill amends the Land Transfer Act and would clarify restricted use of conveyed land to Camp Curnalia Cottage owners association and board members.

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

SB 160 – Require Warrants for the DNR to Enter Upon Private Property

– Sen. McBroom

This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to restrict DNR employees ability to enter upon private property unless they have permission from the land owner or lessee or if they are a DNR peace officer or park and recreation officer with a warrant, reasonably believes evidence of a crime will be destroyed or they are in hot pursuit of criminal suspect.

- The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

SB 210 – Eliminate Helmet Requirement on ORVs in Certain Circumstances

– Sen. McBroom

The bill eliminates the helmet requirement for ORV use if a person possesses a written verification from a physician that the person, for physical or medical reasons, is unable to wear a helmet.

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

SB 211 – Eliminate Helmet Requirement on Snowmobiles in Certain Circumstances – Sen. McBroom

The bill eliminates the helmet requirement for snowmobile use if a person possesses a written verification from a physician that the person, for physical or medical reasons, is unable to wear a helmet.

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

SB 251 – 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 referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and one hearing has been held.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

SB 269 and SB 270 - Create a Qualified Nonresident License for Reduced Fee – Sens. McBroom and VanderWall.

The legislation amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to create a new license category for Qualified Nonresidents. The new license would be a 50% reduction from other nonresident licenses.

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

SR 15 – Resolution Urging NRC and Department to Allow for Wolf Hunt in 2021 – Sen. McBroom

A resolution to urge the NRC to authorize, and the Department to organize, wolf hunting and trapping as part of the state's wolf management efforts beginning in 2021.

- The resolution was adopted by the Senate.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this resolution.

SR 17 – Resolution Urging NRC and Department to End Study on APR in CWD Core Area – Sen. McBroom

A resolution to urge the NRC and the Department to end the research study begun in 2019 concerning the effectiveness of antler point restrictions as a management tool in the chronic wasting disease core area.

- The resolution was adopted by the Senate.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this resolution.

SR 20 – Resolution Urging NRC to Add Eastern Sandhill Cranes as Game Species – Sen. McBroom

A resolution to encourage the NRC to add Eastern sandhill cranes to the game species list and seek U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approval to establish an Eastern sandhill crane hunting season.

- The resolution was reported favorably by Senate Committee on Natural Resources and is awaiting consideration on the Senate floor.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this resolution.

SCR 6 – Resolution Urging NRC and Department to End Study on APR in CWD Core Area – Sen. McBroom

A concurrent resolution to urge the Natural Resources Commission and the Department of Natural Resources to end the research study begun in 2019 concerning the effectiveness of antler point restrictions as a management tool in the chronic wasting disease core area.

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