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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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 265 of 2015 (SB 446) – Recreational Feeding Ban – Sen. Jones

This Act removes from Section 40111a of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act the January 1, 2016 sunset of the Commission's authority to regulate deer and elk feeding in the state. This Act was given immediate effect.

SBs 651 - 653 – Transitional Qualified Forest Property – Sens. Booher and Casperson

These bills seeks to create the Transitional Qualified Forest Property Specific Tax Act, to Amend Section 51108 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, to amend Section 7jj and add Section 7vv to the General Property Tax Act to allow property enrolled in the Commercial Forestland program to be withdrawn, without penalty, and enrolled in the new Transitional Qualified Forest Program and receive property tax benefits for the enrolled property.

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

SBs 681 - 683 – Aquaculture – Sen. Booher

These bills seek to amend the Michigan Aquaculture Development Act, sections of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, and the Animal Industry Act, to provide that an aquaculture facility includes both a land-based and water-based aquaculture facility and remove any permit requirement for an aquaculture facility if it is registered under the Michigan Aquaculture Development Act. These bills would allow aquaculture facilities to be located within the waters of the state.

- These bills were referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 5128 –Retired State Employees and Wildfire Suppression – Rep. Rendon

This bill seeks to amend Section 68c of the State Employees' Retirement Act to allow a retired state employee to contract with the Department of Natural Resources for wildfire suppression without loss of their retirement allowance.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 5146 – Possession of a Deer or Elk Carcass From a State Listed as Containing CWD – Rep. Kivela

This bill seeks to amend Section 40118 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to establish as a misdemeanor and prescribes penalties against an individual who imports deer or elk carcasses from a state or providence detected to have CWD in free-range deer or elk populations. While these restrictions are currently contained in WCO, this bill would codify them into statute.

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

HB 5155 – Unlawful Take of Fish From Inland Lake – Rep. Cole

This bill seeks to amend Section 45102 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to change from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction a violation of Part 451 titled “Fishing From Inland Waters”, which makes it a criminal act for a person to take any fish from any inland lake of the state, which fish are planted at the expense of the people of the state, if the public is excluded from taking fish from those waters (i.e. a private lake). The fines for a violation of Section 45102 continue to remain in effect

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

HBs 5166 - 5168 – Aquaculture – Rep. McBroom

These bills seek to amend the Michigan Aquaculture Development Act, sections of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, and the Animal Industry Act, to provide that an aquaculture facility includes both a land-based and water-based aquaculture facility and remove any permit requirement for an aquaculture facility if it is registered under the Michigan Aquaculture Development Act. These bills would allow aquaculture facilities to be located within the waters of the state.

- These bills were referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.
- 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.