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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 1 of 2016 (HB 4983) – Free Recreation Passport on Free Fishing Weekends – Rep. Rendon

This Act amends Section 74116 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to waive the recreational passport requirement at 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 Act was given immediate effect.

SBs 521 & 522 – Michigan Historical Commission – Sens. Horn and O’Brien

These bills would codify existing laws and Executive Orders to create the Michigan Historical Act and the Michigan Historical Center Act.

- These bills were referred to the House Committee on Appropriations.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

SB 523 – Native American History – Sen. Schmidt

This bill seeks to add a new Section 72117 and amend Section 72114 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require the Department to provide signage and recognition to places of significant Native American history, to require the Department to work collaboratively with tribal governments, educators and other departments and agencies to promote and preserve Native American history in the state and would also require the Department to issue an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature on its activities under Section 72117.

- This bill was referred to the full House for consideration.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

SB 588 – Tribal Conservation Officers – Sen. Casperson

This bill seeks to amend section 43516 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require an individual who has been issued a hunting, fur harvester’s or fishing license to exhibit the license upon the demand of a tribal conservation officer who complied with certain requirements.

- This bill was referred to the full House for Consideration.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

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

These bills seek 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 of the Whole.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 5275 – Forest Roads, Pack & Saddle and ORV Use– Rep. Cole

This bill seeks to add a new Section 72117 and amend Section 72115 of Part 721 and amend Section 81133 and repeal Section 81126 of Part 811 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow pack and saddle animals and ORVs to be used to retrieve legally harvested large game, to require that an inventory of forest roads be created, and to require that forest roads be open to motorized use by the public unless designated otherwise.

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

Aquaculture Bills

SB 526 – Aquaculture – Sen. Jones

This bill seeks to add a new Section 6a to the Michigan Aquaculture Development Act to prohibit a net pen aquaculture facility within the Great Lakes or its connecting waters, or any water body that is openly connected to the Great Lakes or its connecting waters.

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

HBs 5166 - 5168 – Aquaculture – Reprs. McBroom and Cole

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 all waters of the state.

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

HB 5255 –Aquaculture – Rep. Bumstead

This bill seeks to add a new Section 6a and amend Section 2 of the Michigan Aquaculture Development Act to prohibit a net pen aquaculture facility within the Great Lakes or its connecting waters, or any water body that is openly connected to the Great Lakes or its connecting waters. The bill would take effect 90 days after the date it is enacted into law.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- 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.