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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

**SBs 926 & 927 – Prohibits the Use of Aerial Drones for the Taking of Game – Sen’s.
Casperson and Pavlov**

These bills seek to amend Sections 40102, 40111c, and 40112 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to prohibit the use of drones for the taking game or to interfere with or harass another individual who is hunting.

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

HB 5631 – Prohibits the Use of Aerial Drones to Take Game – Rep. Kosowski

This bill seeks to amend Sections 40102 and 40111c of the Natural Resources Environmental and Protection Act to prohibit the use of an aerial drone for the taking of game.

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

SB 966 – Modifies the Definition of Firearm in NREPA – Rep. Jones

This bill seeks to amend Sections 40102 and 43503 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to modify the definition of firearm to only include a weapon that is designed to, or may readily be converted to, expel a projectile by action of an explosive. (i.e. exempts pneumatic guns)

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

**SB 979 – Provides for Regulations of Pneumatic Guns by Local Units of Governments –
Sen. Hildenbrand**

This bill seeks to amend Section 1101 of the Firearms and Ammunition Act to allow a local unit of government to regulate the possession and discharge of pneumatic guns. Additionally, this bill would provide a definition for firearm and pneumatic gun.

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

SB 1056 – Provides for the Conveyance of Certain Property in Calhoun County after Acquisition from the Federal Government – Sen. Nofs

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by adding Section 2120a to require the Department to locate current de facto owners of certain lands in Calhoun County and convey a portion of the property to these de facto owners.

- This bill was referred to the full Senate for consideration.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

SB 1090 – Establishes a Walleye Fish Stocking Rate – Sen. Casperson

This bill seeks to amend Section 505 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require the Department to stock spring walleye fingerling at an establish minimum rate in Fish Stocking Priority Regions. A Fish Stocking Priority Regions consists of 2 or more contiguous counties with a combined population of not less than 34,000 and not more than 41,000 residents and contains at least 130 inland lakes.

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

SB 1091 – Provides for the Establishment of Local Ordinances for the Prevention and Treatment of Aquatic Invasive Species – Sen. Casperson

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by adding Section 3317 to allow for a local unit of government to establish a local ordinance for the prevention and treatment of aquatic invasive species.

- This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Environment and Great Lakes.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

SB 1093 – Provides for a Discount on Nonresident Licenses under Certain Circumstances – Sen. Casperson

This bill seeks to amend Sections 43504, 43523a, 43523b, 43527a, 43528b and 43532 and adds section 43527c to allow a “qualified nonresident” to purchase a nonresident hunting and combination license at a discount. Additionally, the bill would establish license fees for this classification and provide for specific antler point restrictions.

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

HB 5141 – Provides for a Transfer of State-Owned Property to Kent County – Rep. Peter MacGregor

This bill seeks to authorize the Department of Natural Resources to convey property located in Plainfield Township to Kent County.

- This bill is currently before the Senate Committee on Appropriations.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 5226 – Expands Crop Damage Permits to Include Bear– Rep. McBroom

This bill seeks to amend Section 40114 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to include bear as a species for which a crop damage permit can be issued. The bill establishes specific deadlines for responding to a request for a permit and also requires that only a person with a valid bear hunting license shall be allowed to shoot the nuisance bear.

- This bill is before the full Senate for consideration.
- The Administration is neutral on this legislation.

HB 5563 – Creates a Disposal Process for Abandoned Vessels, ORVs and Snowmobiles – Rep. LaFontaine

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to create a process for the disposal of abandoned vessels, ORVs and snowmobiles.

- This bill is currently before the full House for consideration.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 5722 – Exempt Watercraft 16’ or Shorter With a Portable Electric Motor From The Boater Registration Requirement – Rep. Rendon

This bill seeks to amend Section 80123 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to exempt watercraft 16’ or shorter in length from boater registration when using a portable electric motor.

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

HB 5818 – Exempts Certain Activities from the 150-Yard Safety Zone Requirement – Rep. Pettalia

This bill seeks to amend Section 40111 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to specifically exempt target shooting activities from the 150-yard safety zone requirement.

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

HB 5844 – Removes American Lotus from the Protected Species List – Rep. Somerville

This bill seeks to amend Sections 36503 and 52901 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to remove the American Lotus from the Protected Species List.

- This 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.