



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
LANSING



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TO: Natural Resources Commission

FROM: Taylor Ridderbusch, Legislative Liaison

SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources (Department) Legislative Update

**HB 4041 (H-1) – Provide 2 Week Preference of State Camp Sites for State Residents – Rep. Steven Johnson**

This legislation amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require that all state camp sites be first offered for reservation to residents of the state for at least 2 weeks. The legislation includes reservations for all campground sites, cabins, yurts, lodges and shelters.

- The bill was reported with recommendation by the House Committee on Oversight and is awaiting a vote on the House floor.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

**HB 5631 – Require Creation of Michigan Woodcock Restoration Plan – Rep. Cherry**

This bill would put into statute a requirement that the Department must create an American woodcock restoration plan in consultation with several organizations outlined in the legislation by December 31, 2023.

- The bill was reported with recommendation by the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation and is awaiting a vote on the House floor.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

**HB 6103 – Designate Douglass Houghton Falls as a Veterans' State Park – Rep. Markkanen**

This bill would require the scenic area including the Douglass Houghton Falls to be designated a state park known as Veterans State Park. Additionally, the bill would amend exempt veterans and active-duty military that are Michigan residents from the recreation passport required for entry.

- 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 6113 – Provide Waiver of Hunter Safety Course for Individuals Valid Concealed Pistol License and Military Service Members – Rep. S. Johnson**

This bill would provide a waiver of the Hunter Safety Course for individuals who present a valid concealed pistol license or individuals who present proof that they were honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States.

- 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 563 (S-2) – Require Public Beach Safety Information on Websites – Sen. LaSata**

This bill as amended would require the Department to provide information on beach safety and anti-drowning techniques and require municipalities under certain circumstances to post on their websites.

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

**SB 1003 – Include Definition of Peace Officer in ORV Laws – Sen. VanderWall**

The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow seasonal deputies, those not certified by Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) that have limited authorities, to work specific ORV patrols, similar to marine or snowmobile deputies that are currently allowed.

- The bill was passed by the Senate and referred to the House Committee on Judiciary.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

**SB 1028 – Provide Appropriations from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund – Sen. Huizenga**

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 2022. The proposed appropriation totals almost \$45.6 million in project funding from the trust fund.

- The bill was passed by the Senate and House and is currently awaiting approval by the Governor.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

**SB 1066 – Establish Copper as the State Mineral – Sen. McBroom**

This bill would establish copper as the state mineral.

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