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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 6354 (H-5) – Eliminates Natural Resources Commission Authority to Issue an Order Requiring a Hunter to Report the Harvest of Deer – Rep. Hoitenga

This bill as introduced amended Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to eliminate the misdemeanor penal code violation for not reporting a deer harvest or not retaining a deer harvest confirmation number. The H-5 version removed the penalty language entirely from the introduced version. Instead, HB 6354 (H-5), as enrolled, would prohibit the Natural Resources Commission from issuing an order or interim order requiring hunters to report the harvest of deer or retain the harvest confirmation for that deer unless it is taken under a deer damage shooting permit or a disease control permit.

- The bill was passed by the House and Senate and is awaiting action by the Governor.
- The Administration is opposed to the H-5 version of the legislation.

HB 6381 – Modifies the Penalty for Feeding or Baiting a Deer – Rep. Beson

This bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to change the penalty for an individual who is guilty of the baiting of deer or the taking of deer over bait to a state civil infraction and may be ordered to pay a civil fine of not more than \$1.00.

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

HBs 6382 - 6386 – A Package of Bills to Create an Upper Peninsula Natural Resources Commission – Reps. Markkanen and Damoose

These bills would create an Upper Peninsula Natural Resources Commission and establish membership and authority for the Commission to make certain decisions regarding game in the Upper Peninsula. These bills are tie-barred to each other and House Bill 6387.

- 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 6387– Modify the Membership of the Natural Resources Commission
– Rep. LaFave**

The bill would modify membership of the Natural Resources Commission including the additional requirement that each member appointed to the NRC after the effective date would have to have held a fishing or hunting license for no less than 4 of the last 6 years preceding appointment. This bill is tie-barred to House Bills 6382-6386.

- 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 6379 (H-1) – Provide a Land Conveyance from Department to Chesterfield Township – Rep. Hornberger

The bill would require the Department to convey land Brandenburg Park in Macomb County to Chesterfield Township.

- The bill was passed by the House and awaiting referral to a committee in the Michigan Senate.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

**SB 1003 (H-1) – 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 reported with recommendation by the House Committee on Judiciary. The bill is currently awaiting a vote on the House floor.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.