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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



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ACTING DIRECTOR

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TO: Natural Resources Commission

FROM: Taylor Ridderbusch, Legislative Liaison

SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources (Department) Legislative Update

SB 52 – Eliminate Penal Code Violation for Not Reporting a Deer Harvest within 72 Hours – Sen. Cherry

This bill amends 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 bill was signed by the Governor on 7/18/2023, becoming PA 55 of 2023 with immediate effect.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

SB 59 – Modify Definition of a Peace Officer in the Mental Health Code – Sen. Cherry

This bill would amend the Mental Health Code, Act 258 of 1974, to modify the definition of a peace officer by adding an officer or agency who is licensed under the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES), Act 203 of 1965. The changes to this bill would allow an expansion of officers, including Conservation Officers, able to engage with a person requiring treatment under the Mental Health Code.

- The bill was signed by the Governor on 7/18/2023, becoming PA 56 of 2023 with immediate effect.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

SB 441 – Provides Management and Regulation of State and Tribal Fisheries – Sen. Shink

This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to update the requirements and penalties for submitting catch activity reports by fishing charter boats.

- The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

HB 4855 – Amend Membership on Wolf Management Advisory Council – Rep. Aiyash

This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to modify the membership of the Wolf Management Advisory Council within the DNR. This includes two members representing organizations that promote conservation in the state, and one member with a master's degree in zoology, wildlife management or a related discipline of science.

- The bill has been referred to the House Natural Resources, Environment, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

HB 4856 – Amend Membership on Michigan Wildlife Council – Rep. Mentzer

This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to modify the membership of the Michigan Wildlife Council to include 4 additional individuals with expertise in wildlife issues, habitat, or management (2), representing a tribal government in the state (1) and a master's degree in zoology, wildlife management or a related discipline of science (1).

- The bill has been referred to the House Natural Resources, Environment, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.