



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



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DIRECTOR

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TO: Natural Resources Commission

FROM: Taylor Ridderbusch, Legislative Liaison

SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources (Department) Legislative Update

HB 4021 – Include Definition of Peace Officer in ORV Laws – Rep. 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 signed by the Governor on 11/22/23, becoming PA 210 of 2023 effective 2/13/24.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

HB 4515 – Removes sunset on ORV License Fees – Rep. Hill

This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to remove the sunset on ORV License Fees.

- The bill was signed by the Governor on 11/22/23, becoming PA 217 of 2023 effective 2/13/24.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

HB 5298 & 5299 – Allows Feeding and Baiting of Deer and Elk – Reps. Hoadley and Bierlein

This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual to engage in deer and elk feeding during the open seasons in some circumstances.

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

HB 5305 – Establishes Muzzleloading Deer Season– Rep. Cavitt

This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to establish a 14-day muzzleloading deer season beginning the first Saturday in December.

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

HB 5306 – Designates Official State Butterfly – Rep. Snyder

This bill designates the Karner Blue butterfly as the official butterfly of the state of Michigan.

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

HB 5334 – Provides Option for Hunters/Firearm Safety in School Curriculum – Rep. VanderWall

This bill would amend the Revised School Code to include the option to include the Hunter's Safety course and firearms safety instruction in school curriculum.

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

HB 5335 – Allows for Drain Assessment Levies – Rep. Andrews

This bill would amend the Drain Code of 1956 to allow lands under the ownership of the Department to be levied for drain assessments.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Local Government and Municipal Finance Committee
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 5375 – Requires Rule and Regulation Changes to be Posted by September 1st – Rep. Meerman

This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require any regulation changes or orders issued for the taking of game by the Natural Resources Commission to be issued by September 1st. Orders issued after this will not be valid until the following year.

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

SBs 103, 104, 105 – Provide Regulations for Commercial Hunting and Sport Fishing Guides – Sens. Cherry, Daley and McCann

These bills would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to provide for the licensure and regulation of commercial hunting and sport fishing guides and to provide the Natural Resources Commission with the exclusive authority to regulate hunting and fishing guides.

- The bill was signed by the Governor on 11/22/23, becoming PA's 220, 221, 222 of 2023 effective 2/13/24.
- The Administration is in support 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 charter boats, commercial fishers and wholesale fish dealers.

- The bill was signed by the Governor on 11/29/23, becoming PA 239 of 2023 effective 2/13/24.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

SB 612 – Allows Feeding and Baiting of Deer and Elk – Sen. Hoitenga

This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual to engage in deer and elk feeding during the open seasons in some circumstances.

- 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.

SB 645 – Modifies Pesticide Application Notification Requirements – Sen. Shink

This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to update the for the notification requirements for the voluntary registry of individuals who are required to be notified before application of certain pesticides to property within 500 feet from the individual's primary residence.

- 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.

SB 664 - Provides Option for Hunters/Firearm Safety in School Curriculum – Sen. Bumstead

This bill would amend the Revised School Code to include the option to include the Hunter's Safety course and firearms safety instruction in school curriculum.

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