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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
LANSING



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DIRECTOR

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TO: Natural Resources Commission

FROM: Chris Semrinec, Legislative Liaison

SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources (Department) Legislative Update

**HB 5719 – Modify Natural Resource Commission Meeting Requirements – Rep. Martin**

This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to include option for 2-way video conferencing communication to allow for virtual public comment during the public comment period.

- 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 5721 – Allows Year-Round Coyote Hunting – Rep. Markkanen**

This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow individuals to hunt coyotes year-round if they hold a fur harvesters license.

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

**HB 5737 – Modifies Mentored Hunting Program– Rep. Aiyash**

This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to include minor children or adults with developmental or intellectual disabilities who are not able to obtain a certification of completion of training in hunters' safety to participate in the mentored hunt program.

- Substitute (H-1) was reported with recommendation from the House Committee on Natural Resources, Environment, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation and has been placed on third reading.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

**SB 859 – Creates FOIA Exemption for Oil, Gas and Mineral Deposit Information – Sen. Hoitenga**

This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to create an exemption for certain information from the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) relating to oil, gas or mineral deposits obtained by a private person during authorized exploration of land owned by the Department.

- This bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Oversight.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

**SB 860 – Creates Plan to Restore American Woodcock – Sen. Cherry**

This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to create a plan to restore American Woodcock populations in alignment with the American Woodcock Conservation Plan.

- 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.