



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 4682 – Modifies the Responsibilities of Property Owners Under the Recreational Trespassing Law – Rep. Slagh

This bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require property owners to post signs at an interval of not more than 250 along the boundary of the property.

- The bill was reported with recommendation from the House Natural Resources, Environment, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation and is awaiting a vote on the House floor.
- The Administration is neutral this legislation.

HB 5428 – Includes Recreation Passport Fee in Renewal of Vehicle Registration – Rep. Brixie

This bill amends the Michigan Vehicle Code to include the fee for the Recreation Passport in the vehicle registration renewal fee, with the option to opt out and receive a refund by mail.

- The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Appropriations.
- The Administration has not yet 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.