

Policy Changes to Implement 2020 Public Acts

Prepared for the Michigan Senate and House
Appropriations Committees, the Senate and House
Committees on Natural Resources, the Joint
Committee on Administrative Rules, and
the Senate and House Fiscal Agencies

Prepared by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in accordance with Section 220 of Public Act 166 of 2020, has prepared this Policy Changes to Implement 2020 Public Acts report. The Act states:

“Sec. 220. The department shall report no later than April 1 on each specific policy change made to implement a public act affecting the department that took effect during the prior calendar year to the senate and house appropriations committees, the senate and house subcommittees on natural resources, the joint committee on administrative rules, and the senate and house fiscal agencies.”

With the exception of appropriations bills, there were nine bills that the department was either lead agency on and/or impacted department activities that became law in calendar year 2020. Following enactment, the Department made policy changes or took other actions to implement those acts where necessary. The following chart lists the changes made to implement each act as of March 31, 2021.

Please contact Craig Brunet, Legislative Liaison, Department of Natural Resources at 517-331-5350 or brunetc@michigan.gov for more information.

<i>2020 Public Act</i>	<i>Bill</i>	<i>Act Description</i>	<i>Policy Changes</i>
70	HB 5401	Watercraft; traffic control; temporary speed restrictions during high water conditions; provide for. Amends sec. 80146 of 1994 PA 451 (MCL 324.80146).	The DNR created and posted online information explaining the process for local units of government to request a temporary reduced maximum vessel speed limit. The document explains the process to establish the temporary speed limit and necessary notification procedures to other authorities and the public, and it details options for extending the emergency temporary speed reduction.
71	HB 5402	Civil procedure; civil actions; violations of temporary watercraft speed restrictions; classify as municipal civil infractions. Amends secs. 113, 8701, and 8703 of 1961 PA 236 (MCL 600.113 et seq.).	There is no action required by the DNR.
72	HB 5463	Watercraft: traffic control; procedure to allow local political subdivisions to apply for temporary ordinances in water control zones; provide for. Amends secs. 80104 and 80110 of 1994 PA 451 (MCL 324.80104 and 324.80110) and adds sec. 80112a.	The DNR created and posted online information explaining the process for local units of government to request temporary local watercraft control and created and posted online an application for the temporary control. The information posted online includes the complete process for local units of government to apply for the temporary local watercraft control, a description of the timeline for the decision process as prescribed in statute, requirements placed on local units of government if granted a local watercraft control, and information describing the appeals process if denied the local watercraft control by the DNR.
74	HB 4740	Recreation: local parks; Dr. T. K. Lawless Park in Cass County; designate as dark sky preserve. Amends secs. 75102, 75103, and 75104 of 1994 PA 451 (MCL 324.75102 et seq.).	The DNR added information regarding Wilderness State Park and Dr. T.K. Lawless Park to the department managed Dark Sky Preserves webpage.

160	SB 799	An Act to authorize the department of natural resources to accept and convey real property in Gogebic County; to prescribe conditions for the conveyance; and to provide for disposition of the revenue from the conveyance.	As required by PA 160, the acceptance and conveyance of the real property in Gogebic County was completed by the DNR. The Quit Claim Deed was signed on February 11, 2021 and sent to Watersmeet Township.
262	HB 4313	Natural resources: hunting; pheasant stamp program; create. Amends 1994 PA 451 (MCL 324.101 - 324.90106) by adding sec. 43525c.	The DNR added a pheasant license to the license sales system. The license was made available for sale on March 24, 2021.
270	HB 5002	Natural resources: fishing; purchase of all-species fishing license by individuals under 17 years of age; exempt from additional charges. Amends sec. 43532a of 1994 PA 451 (MCL 324.43532a).	The DNR added a youth fishing license to the license sales system. The license was made available for sale on March 1, 2021.
271	HB 5003	Natural resources: fishing; purchase of all-species fishing license by individuals less than 17 years of age; allow. Amends sec. 43532 of 1994 PA 451 (MCL 324.43532).	The DNR added a youth fishing license to the license sales system. The license was made available for sale on March 1, 2021.
287	HB 5333	Natural resources: forests; use of money in the forest development fund; prohibit for certain administrative costs and payments in lieu of taxes. Amends secs. 50501, 50502, and 50507 of 1994 PA 451 (MCL 324.50501 et seq.).	The DNR provided guidance to necessary staff on the new limitations prescribed in statute for utilization of the Forest Development Fund.