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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



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TO: Natural Resources Commission
Department of Natural Resources Management Team

FROM: Anna Mooney, Legislative Liaison, Legislative & Legal Affairs Office

SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources Legislative Update

PA 25 (HB 4787) – Ice Shanty Removal – Rep. VanderWall

This act amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to change requirements for how an ice shanty can be identified. Instead of an individual using their home address to identify their shanty, the act would allow for the use of the owner's driver license number or their sportcard to be posted on the outside of the shanty. This act also removes the dates in statute for when shanties are required to be removed from the ice and would allow for the Department to set this date instead.

PA 20 (SB 316) – Frog Spearing with the Aid of Artificial Light – Sen. Booher

This act amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by repealing Section 45501. Repealing this section places the regulatory authority for the season for frogs and the prohibition on the use of artificial light to aid in the spearing of frogs at night with the Natural Resources Commission (NRC). The NRC has the authority to regulate the take of reptiles and amphibians in regard to all other matters. Removal of the season as well as the use of artificial light from statute places the regulatory authority over these two items with the NRC, similar to all other sport fishing regulations.

PA 36 (HB 5200) – Update and Eliminate Certain Sections of NREPA – Rep. Howell

This act amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to statutorily prohibit the taking of reptiles or amphibians for commercial purposes and to remove from the provisions of Part 13 (Permits) reference to a permit to collect frogs for scientific research currently required under Part 455.

SB 596 – Trail Guidance – Sen. Hansen

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to recommend that the department develop guidance or framework for local trail managers. The bill would also suggest various topics that a Trails Council could consider for discussion. □ This bill is currently before the Governor for his consideration.

HB 5155-5156 – Adopt-a-River and Adopt-a-Shoreline – Rep. LaSata

These bills seek to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to clarify the requirements for the Adopt-a-River and Adopt-a-Shoreline programs within the Department of Natural Resources.

□ **These bills are currently before the Governor his consideration.**

HB 5198 – All Hazard Response – Rep. Allor

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow the Department of Natural Resources to enter into agreements for all hazard incidents taking place out-of-state. Employees would be entitled to the same compensation and employee benefits as they would be in Michigan.

□ This bill is currently before the Governor for his consideration.

HB 5180 – Use of Pneumatic Firearms – Rep. LaFave

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual to take game with a pneumatic firearm during any open season in which a firearm may be used. The legislation proposes to amend the definition of “pneumatic firearm” to include a bow. The bill would also allow for an individual with a disability or physical limitation to take game with a pneumatic firearm during any open season in which a bow may be used under certain circumstances. The legislation also adds definitions in statute for “individual with a disability or physical limitation”.

- This bill passed the House and was referred to the Senate for consideration.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 5321 – Prohibit Sterilization of Game – Rep. Cole

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to prohibit the department from issuing a permit to authorize the sterilization of game.

- Two hearings were held on the bill in the House Committee on Natural Resources. The legislation was referred to a subcommittee for further discussion.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 5417 – Transporting of a Bow – Rep. Johnson

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual to transport a bow or crossbow in their vehicle without having to be unstrung, enclosed in a case or carried in the trunk of the car.

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

SB 551 – MNRTF Recommendations – Sen. Hildenbrand

This bill seeks to amend Part 19 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to clarify how the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Board will determine the amount of money to be made available each year for funding of projects. The group that would provide guidance to the Board in the amount of money to make available would be comprised of the Governor, State Treasurer, Senate Majority Leader, Speaker of the House of Representatives or their designees and a member of the Board.

- This bill passed the House and was returned to the Senate for consideration.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

SB 883 – Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) 2018 – Sen. Booher

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Natural Resources Trust Fund Board, this bill would appropriate \$40.4 million from the MNRTF for 34 acquisition projects (approximately \$21.4 million) and 89 development projects (approximately \$19 million).

□ This bill is before the Senate Appropriations Committee. □

The Administration supports this legislation.

If you would like to learn more about these and other bills, you can access the Michigan Legislature website at www.legislature.mi.gov.