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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



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TO: Natural Resources Commission
Department of Natural Resources Management Team

FROM: Trevor VanDyke, Director, Legislative & Legal Affairs Office

SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources Legislative Update

PA 36'16 (SB 588) – Tribal Conservation Officers – Sen. Casperson

This public act amends Section 43516 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require an individual who has been issued a hunting, fur harvester's or fishing license to exhibit the license upon the demand of a tribal conservation officer who complied with certain requirements.

SBs 651 - 653 – Transitional Qualified Forest Property – Sens. Booher and Casperson

These bills seek to create the Transitional Qualified Forest Property Specific Tax Act, to Amend Section 51108 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, to amend Section 7jj and add Section 7vv to the General Property Tax Act to allow until September 1, 2021 up to 160 acres of property per township enrolled in the Commercial Forestland program as of June 1, 2016 to be withdrawn, without penalty, and enrolled in the new Transitional Qualified Forest Program and receive property tax benefits for the enrolled property for a period of five (5) years.

- These bills were referred to the House Committee on Tax Policy.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

SB 773 – Nonresident Commercial Fishing Guides – Sen. Zorn

This bill seeks to repeal Section 48714 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act which limits the ability of nonresidents to act as commercial fishing guides.

- This bill was referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

SB 816 – Exempt Veterans from the Recreation Passport Requirement – Sen. Colbeck

This bill seeks to amend Sections 74116 and 78119 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to exempt all veterans from the recreation passport requirement for entry into a state park or state operated public boating access site.

- This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

SB 817 – Free Fishing License for Honorably Discharged Veterans or Active Duty Military – Sen. Colbeck

This bill seeks to amend Section 43537 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to provide for a free fishing license for honorably discharged veterans and active duty military personnel.

- This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

SB 833 – Funding for Firefighters Training – Sen. Hansen

This bill seeks to amend Sections 2, 13 and 14 of the Firefighters Training Council Act to provide that funding for firefighter training shall be provided from the fund collected from the fireworks safety fees.

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

SB 839 – Forest Roads, Pack & Saddle and ORV Use– Sen. Schmidt

This bill seeks to add a new Section 72117 and amend Sections 72101 and 72115 of Part 721 and amend Section 81133 and repeal Section 81126 of Part 811 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow pack and saddle animals and ORVs to be used to retrieve legally harvested large game, to require that an inventory of forest roads be created, and to require that forest roads be open to motorized use by the public unless designated otherwise.

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

HB 5128 –Retired State Employees and Wildfire Suppression – Rep. Rendon

This bill seeks to amend Section 68c of the State Employees’ Retirement Act to allow a retired state employee to contract with the Department of Natural Resources for wildfire suppression without loss of their retirement allowance.

- This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 5330 –Conveyance of Property in Muskegon County – Rep. Hughes

This bill seeks to provide for the conveyance of state owned property in Muskegon County to Sullivan Township for public purposes.

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

HB 5352 –Providing False Information on Applications, Reports or Documents – Rep. Kosowski

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by adding Section 1521 which would make a person responsible for a civil infraction and a fine for intentionally providing false information on applications, reports or documents submitted to the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Environmental Quality.

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

HB 5269 – Department of Natural Resources Budget – Rep. Bumstead

This bill seeks to make appropriations for the Department of Natural Resources for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and to provide for the expenditure of the appropriations.

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