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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 69 of 2018 (SB 596) – Trail Guidance – Sen. Hansen

This act amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to recommend that the department develop guidance or framework for local trail managers. This act also suggests various topics that a Trails Council could consider for discussion.

PA 78-79 of 2018 (HB 5155-5156) – Adopt-a-River and Adopt-a-Shoreline – Rep. LaSata

These acts 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.

PA 80 of 2018 (HB 5198) – All Hazard Response – Rep. Allor

This act amends 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. Under these agreements, employees would be entitled to the same compensation and employee benefits as they would be in Michigan.

HB 5001-5002 – Registered Forester – Rep. Rendon

These bills seek to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act and the General Property Tax Act to establish the Registered Forester Program within the Department of Natural Resources.

- These bills passed the Senate and were returned to the House to be enrolled to the Governor.
- The Administration supports 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 until April 2022.

- This bill was reported from the House Committee on Natural Resources and is awaiting a vote on the House Floor.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 5711 – Firearm Use on Public Land– Rep. Cole

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow a minor between the ages of 10 and 14 to hunt bear, deer or elk with a firearm on public land. This

bill would also prompt the NRC to allow the same opportunity on public land to individuals with a Mentored Youth Hunting license.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

SB 763, SJR O; SB 931-932 – MNRTF and SPEF Changes – Sen. Casperson, Hansen, and Booher

This legislation seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) and the Michigan Constitution to provide flexibility for the manner in which oil, gas and mineral royalty revenue is to be distributed to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) and the State Park Endowment Fund (SPEF).

This legislation would change the formula for funds currently distributed from the SPEF to designate at least 20% of the royalties to be used towards local public recreation projects. The proposed changes to NREPA and the Michigan Constitution would also allow for more grants to be awarded from the MNRTF each year for the development of public recreation facilities.

- This was reported from the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and is awaiting a vote on the Senate Floor.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

SB 925 – Commercial Fishing– Sen. Green

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to make numerous revisions to the commercial fishing statute. The bill would clearly define the Department's authority to issue rules, orders and license conditions. Under proposed changes to the statute, the bill would also create a commercial fishing advisory committee consisting of commercial and sport fishing interests.

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

HBs 5770-5772 – Privately Owned Cervid Operations and CWD Fund – Rep. Barrett, Albert and Lower

These bills seek to amend the Privately Owned Cervidae Producers Marketing Act, Animal Industry Act and Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. HB 5770 would require a facility to provide a second perimeter fence that is in compliance with operational standards. HB 5771 would ban the importation of live cervids into this state.

Lastly, HB 5772 would create the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Fund for the purposes of conducting research on CWD in free-ranging deer or elk; conducting research for elimination of the prion; providing surveillance of CWD, including the collection of hunter harvested submissions and testing of free-ranging deer; providing educational materials and outreach about CWD; and to enforce orders related to importation of cervid carcasses. The bill would allow an individual to donate \$1, \$5, or \$10 when purchasing their hunting and/or fishing license. These funds would be deposited into the CWD Fund

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

HB 5638 – Water Withdrawal Tool– Rep. Miller

This bill seeks to amend Part 327 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to provide an alternative route for a property owner to submit a water withdrawal assessment. Instead of a request for a site-specific review, the bill would allow a property owner to submit to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) the data used when entering the required fields of the Online Assessment Tool. The bill would also give options to the property owner to submit either registration for a proposed withdrawal that will draw water from aquifers separated from glacial aquifers by bedrock or an analysis by a professional hydrologist demonstrating that the withdrawal is unlikely to cause an adverse resource impact.

Under the bill, the DEQ would have to provide the property owner an acknowledgement of receipt within ten days after the data and analyses related to the proposed withdrawal are received. This acknowledgement would serve as the DEQ's authorization to proceed unless the DEQ provides provisional authorization within ten days. The proposed bill would also exempt information submitted by the applicant to DEQ from Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. One hearing was held on the bill and discussions are ongoing between the sponsor and stakeholders.

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