



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

May 8, 2014

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 114 of 2014 (SB 780) – Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund – Sen. Darwin Boohar

This act appropriates \$27.6 million from the MNRTF for 32 acquisition projects (\$19.0 million) and 44 development projects (\$8.6 million). Matching funds of \$18.9 million result in total project costs of \$46.5 million.

SB 59 – Expands Deadline for Landowners to Transfer from CF to QF– Sen. Darwin Boohar

This bill seeks to amend Section 51108 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow landowners until September 1, 2015, to withdraw forestland from the classification of commercial forest (CF) in order to enter the qualified forest (QF) program without penalty. The current deadline is June 11, 2014.

- This bill is currently before the full House for consideration.
- The Administration is supportive of this legislation.

SB 774 – FY 2015 DNR Budget– Sen. Michael Green

Please see below for a high-level overview of the Senate Passed version.

From the Executive Budget Recommendations

Senate Removed:

- Summer Youth Initiative/Michigan Conservation Corps: \$2.5 M program removed completely. (Executive Budget \$1 M)
- Capital Outlay Adjustments: \$3.08 M (Executive Budget removed past-year projects, and included new projects, which included \$3 M for wetland restoration and acquisition, \$3.1 M for a waterway project in Tawas, and \$1.5 M for a breakwater in Naubinway)

Senate Added:

- River Raisin National Battlefield Grant: \$2 M to support preservation of the battlefield, building a museum and other items.
- Saginaw River Feasibility Study: \$280 K for a study to deepen the river between the City of Saginaw and the Saginaw Bay.
- Flint River Dike Repair: \$1 M to repair the dike on the Flint River.
- Cormorant Population Mitigation: \$50 K provides additional funding for the management of cormorants.

SB 869 – Provides for the NRC to Establish the Bass Season Dates – Sen. Goeff Hansen

This bill seeks to amend Section 48716 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to eliminate the prescribed statutory open season dates for black bass.

- This bill is currently before the full House for consideration.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

SBs 926 & 927 – Prohibits the Use of Aerial Drones for the Taking of Game – Sen's. Thomas Casperson and Phillip Pavlov

These bills seek to amend Sections 40111c, 40102, and 40112 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to prohibit the use of drones for taking game or to interfere with or harass another individual who is hunting.

- These bills are currently before the Senate Committee on Outdoor, Recreation and Tourism.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 5313 – 2015 Omnibus Budget– Rep. Joe Haveman

Please see below for a high-level overview of the House changes to the Governor's proposed DNR budget.

From the Executive Budget Recommendations

House Removed:

- Invasive Species: 4 FTE's and \$5 M and requires at least \$4.4 M of funding be distributed as grants. (Executive Budget 16 FTE's and \$6 M)
- Forest Economy & Forest Fire Investment: Removes ongoing GF funding. (Executive Budget \$4 M).
- Non-Motorized Trail Initiative: \$2.5 M to increase non-motorized trail development throughout the state.
- State Park Infrastructure: \$9.9 M, which includes \$1.4 M GF. (Executive Budget \$12.5 M, which includes \$1.4 GF).

House Added:

- Water Quality and Forestry – Best Management Practices Audit: \$125 K GF/GP funding.

HB 5361 – Allows Individuals to Hunt from a Personal Assistive Mobility Device – Rep. Charles Smiley

This bill seeks to amend Sections 40111 and 81133 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) to allow individuals, who possess a valid permit for hunting from a standing vehicle, to transport and possess an uncased loaded shot gun, if the action is open, and to also discharge the firearm from a personal assistive mobility device (PAMD) to take small game.

- This bill is currently before the House Committee Natural Resources.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 5551 – Extends In-State License Fees to All Active Duty Military Personnel – Rep. Joseph Graves

This bill seeks to amend Section 43506 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) to extend in-state hunting license fees to all active duty military personnel regardless of residency.

- This bill is currently before the House Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs.
- 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.