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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

**PAs 116 and 117 (HB 5001-5002) – Registered Forester – Rep. Rendon**

These acts 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.

**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 Senate for a second time and was referred to the House for concurrence.

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

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 passed the Senate and was referred to the House Committee on Appropriations.
- 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 passed the House of Representatives and was referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.
- 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 with a firearm on public land. This bill would also prompt the NRC to consider affording the same opportunity on public land to individuals with a Mentored Youth Hunting license.

- This bill passed the House of Representatives and was referred to the Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.
- The Administration supports 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 was reported from the Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism and is awaiting a vote on the Senate Floor.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

#### **HB 5836 –Electronic Boater’s Safety Certificate– Rep. Marino**

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual that is required to display their boater’s safety certificate upon request when operating a motorboat to do so electronically. The bill would also require the Secretary of State to develop an integrated database system that would allow law enforcement agencies to verify that an individual has obtained a boater’s safety certificate.

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

#### **HB 5854-5855 – Voluntary Wetland Restoration Program– Rep. Howell and Bellino**

These bills seek to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to create a Voluntary Wetland Restoration Program within the Department of Natural Resources. The program would be required to enhance coordination, consistency and operational procedures to improve and streamline the permitting process to facilitate a net gain in wetland quantity and/or quality.

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

#### **HB 5866 – Sport Fishing – Rep. Bellino**

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to make several clarifications in decision making authority from the department to the commission in the section of law pertaining to sport fishing.

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

#### **HB 5889 – Lake Level Assessments -- Rep. VanSingel**

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow the department to pay the lake level assessments on purchased lands, owned by the department, through special assessments.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- 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](http://www.legislature.mi.gov).