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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 145 of 2014 (SB 869) – Provides Flexibility in Establishing the Bass Season Dates – Sen. Hansen

This act amends section 48716 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to eliminate the prescribed statutory open season dates for black bass.

PA 146 of 2014 (SB 59) – Expands Deadline for Landowners to Transfer from CF to QF– Sen. Booher

This act 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.

PA 147 of 2014 (HB 5191) – Remove ORV Helmet Requirement for Private Property Owner on Own Land – Rep. Rendon

This act amends sections 81133 and 81147 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to exempt individuals 18 years and older from the helmet requirement for operating or riding an ORV on property they own, are a family member of the owner and reside on the property, or when they are an invited guest of the property owner. This exemption does not apply to individuals under the age of 16; and, an ORV operator or passenger between the ages of 16 and 18 would require parental or guardian consent to operate or ride an ORV without a helmet.

PA 160 of 2014 (SB 759) – Removes the Prohibition on a Person Holding a Fur Dealer’s License from Also Holding a License to Trap Beaver – Sen. Casperson

This Act amends section 42501 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow a person who holds a fur dealer’s license to now also hold a license to trap beaver.

SB 613 – Allows for Salvaging of Game Killed Following a Collision with a Motor Vehicle – Sen. Booher

This bill seeks to add Section 40115 to the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow individuals to possess game killed, or injured and euthanized, following a collision with a motor vehicle without the need to possess a valid license or permit.

- This bill is currently before the Governor for consideration.
- The Administration is neutral on this legislation.

SB's 795-797 & 799-800 – Increases Penalties for Prohibited Species Violations and Adds Additional Prohibited Species – Sen's. Kowall, Meekhof, Pavlov, Green, Casperson, Walker, Moolenaar, and Hansen

These bills seek to amend various sections of the Michigan Compiled Laws to increase penalties for violations of introduction of prohibited, restricted, genetically engineered or nonnative aquatic species and also includes “insect” and “aquatic plant” in the prohibited list. To include additional criminal penalties; forfeiture of property; suspension or revocation of licenses or permits.

- These bills were referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

SB's 873, 875, 876,877, HBs 5553 & 5559 – Provides for Pure Michigan Trails,Water Trails and Trail Towns – Sen's. Moolenaar, Meekhof, Hildenbrand, Hansen and Casperson & Rep's. Franz and Pagel

These bills seek to amend various sections of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow for the designation, definition, construction, operation and funding of Pure Michigan Trails, Pure Michigan Water Trails and Pure Michigan Trail Towns.

- These bills are currently before the Governor for consideration.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

SBs 963-966 – Provides for a Change in the Definition of a Firearm– Sen's Hildenbrand, Pavlov, Hune, and Jones

These bills seek to modify the statutory definitions of “firearm” to exclude guns that fire a projectile by spring, gas, or air. These bills could affect several current regulations regarding taking of game.

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

HB 5226 – Expands Crop Damage Permits to Include Bear– Rep. McBroom

This bill seeks to amend Section 40114 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to include bear as a species for which a crop damage permit can be issued. The bill establishes specific deadlines for responding to a request for a permit and also requires that only a person with a valid bear hunting license shall be allowed to shoot the nuisance bear.

- This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture.
- The Administration is neutral on this legislation.

HB 5313 – Omnibus Budget – Rep. Haveman

The General Fund Target agreement between the Executive, House, and Senate allocated \$48.6 million to the DNR, of which \$43.8 million is ongoing and \$4.75 million is one-time. This General Fund allocation represents \$23.5 million in new investments, of which \$18.75 million is ongoing and \$4.75 million is one-time.

Ongoing Investments - \$18.75 million GF:

- Invasive Species: Added \$5 million GF (\$1 million less than Exec)
- Forest Economy/Wildfire Protection: Added \$3.92 million GF (\$80,000 less than Exec)
- State Park Infrastructure: Added \$3.75 million GF; \$12.25 million total (same as Exec)
- Conservation Officers: Added \$3.5 million GF (same as Exec)
- Non-Motorized Trails: Added \$2.5 million GF (same as Exec)

- Great Lakes Research Vessel Chinook: Added \$1 million GF; \$2 million total (same as Exec)
- Hart-Montague Trail: Added \$530,000 GF (NEW)
- Cormorant Population Mitigation: Increased by \$50,000 GF (NEW)
- Michigan Conservation Corps/Summer Youth: Reduced by \$1.5 million GF (\$2.5 million less than Exec)

One-Time Investments - \$4.75 million GF:

- River Raisin National Battlefield Park Foundation: Added \$2 million GF (NEW)
- Flint River Dike Repair: Added \$1 million GF (NEW)
- City of Alma/Alma College Public Safety Land Improvements: Added \$1 million GF (NEW)
- Hart-Montague Trail: Added \$470,000 GF (NEW)
- Saginaw River Feasibility Study: Added \$280,000 GF (NEW)

This bill has been presented to the Governor for his consideration.

HB 5361 – Allows Hunting from a Personal Assistive Mobility Device – Rep. Smiley

This bill seeks to amend sections 40111 and 81133 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act 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 game.

- This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 5432 – Provides for a Change in the Definition of Native Swine– Rep. MacMaster

This bill seeks to amend sections 41301 and 41302 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to restrict livestock from being added or deleted to the list of prohibited species; it adds native swine as a type of livestock and defines native swine to mean, “swine born and raised in this state or legally imported into this state.”

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.
- The Administration is opposed to 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.