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STATE OF MICHIGAN
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 201 of 2014 (HB 5085) –Minor Pistol Safety Training – Rep. Phil Potvin

The new act amends Section 2 of the Handgun Licensure Law to remove the requirement that an individual under the age of 18 be in the physical presence and supervision of a parent or guardian, and instead, require the person to be in the physical presence and under the direct supervision of any of the following: the person's parent; the person's guardian; or, with parental consent, an individual who is 21 years of age or older and has successfully completed a pistol safety training course or class that meets the requirements of Section 5J of the act.

PA's 210 - 215 of 2014 (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 new acts 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.

PA 255 of 2014 (SB 613) – Allows for Salvaging of Game Killed Following a Collision with a Motor Vehicle – Sen. Booher

The new act adds Section 40115 to the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow individuals to possess deer, bear, and small game species including fur bearer species with no bag limit killed by, or injured and euthanized, following a collision with a motor vehicle if specific criteria are met.

PA 252 of 2014 (HB 5313) – Omnibus Budget – Rep. Haveman

The new act provides 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)

SBs 481 & 484 and HBs 4379 & 4380 – Dissolution of the State Forestry Registry – Sen. Jansen and Rep. Crawford

These bills, following a recommendation from the Office of Regulatory Reform (ORR), would have dissolved the state foresters registry. While the Governor agreed with ORR in the need for reform of the registry, he disagreed with its total elimination, and instead felt that improving the Michigan Licensed Forester Statute was necessary. Therefore he vetoed the bills and is encouraging the legislature to resubmit the bills after working with the DNR to develop a system that modernizes and elevates Michigan's regulatory system for professional forestry.

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