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LANSING



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July 12, 2018

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 238-240 (SB 302-302 and HB 4475) – State Managed Public Land Strategy– Sen. Casperson, Booher and Rep. Howell

These acts amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to codify the state's managed public land strategy. The acts prohibit the Department from acquiring land north of the Mason-Arenac line if any state PILT payments, commercial forestland payments, or payments on tax-reverted land are not paid in full and on time. Further, the acts provide counties or townships the ability to prohibit the Department from acquiring land where 40% of that local jurisdiction's land is either owned by the state, federal government, or in commercial forestland. These acts would also require the Department to give written notice in a newspaper publication and to provide an opportunity for a public meeting when disposing, acquiring, leasing or significantly developing land more than 80 acres in size.

Public Act 240 (SB 303) amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to expand the acceptable uses of the land exchange facilitation fund to pay for surveys and environmental assessments incurred by the Department in land transactions, as well as the costs of managing the natural resources for public recreation activities and development projects on department managed lands.

PA 209 (HB 5638) – Water Withdrawal Tool– Rep. Miller

This act amends 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 act allows 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 act gives 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 this act, the DEQ will have to provide the property owner an acknowledgement of receipt within 20 working days after the data and analyses related to the proposed withdrawal are received.

PA 272 (HB 5417) – Transporting of a Bow – Rep. Johnson

This act amends 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 if it is unloaded and uncocked.

HB 5903-5904 – Pollinator Council– Rep. Cochran and Maturen

These bills seek to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to create a Pollinator Advisory Council within the Department of Natural Resources. Under the legislation, the council would advise the department on pollinator health and would provide assistance in implementing the pollinator protection plan.

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

HB 5994 – Personal Watercraft Operator Requirements– Rep. Webber

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require an individual that is 14-16 years-old operating a personal watercraft be accompanied by a parent or guardian or designee that is at least 21 years-old. Both individuals would be required to have obtained a boater safety certificate.

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

HB 6045 – Free Hunting and Fishing License for Veterans – Rep. McCready

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual that is retired from a branch of the armed forces to obtain a hunting and/or fishing license at no cost.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 6124-6125 – Recreation Passport – Rep. Victory

These bills seek to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act and the Motor Vehicle Code to allow to expand where Recreation Passports are needed. This legislation would require an individual at a State Trailhead and a State Forest Campground to have a Recreation Passport.

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

HB 6133 – Antlerless Deer Permits – Rep. VanderWall

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual who obtains a private-land antlerless deer license to transfer that license to an immediate family member.

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

HB 6153 – Repeal of Obsolete Ruleset – Rep. Rendon

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to repeal obsolete requirements and rulemaking authority for the Forest and Mineral Resources Development Fund.

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

HB 6187, 6199-6201 – Straits of Mackinac Safety, Protection and Accountability – Rep. Allor, Cole, and Chatfield

These bills seek to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act and the Code of Criminal Procedure to provide additional protections for the Great Lakes in the Straits of Mackinac where pipelines exist. HB 6187 would require the Department of Natural Resources to install markers, buoys or other signage to indicate to an operator of a vessel that they are in an area where an anchor or other vessel equipment is currently prohibited.

HB 6200 would prohibit the dragging, setting or use of an anchor by a vessel in the Straits of Mackinac, unless granted permission by the Director. HB 6199 would provide clear penalties for an operator of a vessel that is knowingly dragging or using an anchor in an area where it is prohibited, unless by emergency order. Lastly, HB 6201 would require that an owner, operator or manager of a Straits gas or oil pipeline from which a release occurs notify the Department of Environmental Quality immediately. The owner or operator of the pipeline would then be required to submit subsequent reports on the cause of the release, discovery of the release and the response measures taken to prevent reoccurrence or a schedule for completion of measures to take place.

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

HB 6196 – Chronic Wasting Disease – Rep. Albert

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish locations where individuals may drop off deer carcasses in each area of the state where deer have been diagnosed with Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). The bill would also require the DNR to establish and post to their website recommendations for the appropriate way to dispose of a deer carcass.

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

HB 6205-6214, 6216 – Animal Industry Act Rewrite – Rep. Lauwers, Howell, Victory, Alexander, Vaupel, Wentworth, Calley, Barrett, Frederick and Cole.

These bills seek to amend the Animal Industry Act and other various acts to make numerous updates and revisions. The bills would clarify the indemnification process for a livestock or domestic animal owner. The legislation codifies certain duties and requirements of the State Veterinarian.

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

SB 1072 –Prohibited Species List – Sen. Kowall

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to maintain a “Prohibited and Restricted Species” list. The bill would also require registration of all businesses engaged in selling aquatic organisms and would require record retention in a manner described by the DNR. The bill would also codify in statute DNR Fisheries Order for Fish Disease Control.

- This bill was referred to the Senate 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.