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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 247 of 2016 (SB 523) – Native American History – Sen. Schmidt

This new act amends Section 72117 and Section 72114 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require the Department to provide signage and recognition to places of significant Native American history, to require the Department to work collaboratively with tribal governments, educators and other departments and agencies to promote and preserve Native American history in the state. In addition, the act also requires the Department to issue an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature on its activities under Section 72117.

PA 248 of 2016 (HB 5631) – Modify Allowable Uses of the Forest Development Fund – Rep. Pscholka

This new act amends Section 50507 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to transfer \$3 million from the Forest Development Fund to the First Responder Presumed Coverage Fund for fiscal year 2015-2016 only. The First Responder Presumed Coverage Fund is to be used to fund workers' compensation benefits for eligible firefighters diagnosed with various forms of cancer that are ineligible for or denied other disability pension benefits.

PA 260 of 2016 (SB 651) – Transitional Qualified Forest Property – Sen. Booher

This new act is part of a package that allows forestland to move from the Commercial Forest Program to the Qualified Forest Program, with the tax increase associated with the transfer to the QF program phased in over five years. PA 260 of 2016 creates a new act, the Transitional Qualified Forest Property Specific Tax Act, which allows forestland in the Commercial Forest Program to be considered "transitional" forest property for up to five years and be subject to a new annual specific tax.

PA 261 of 2016 (SB 652) – Transitional Qualified Forest Property – Sen. Booher

This new act makes amendments (complementary to PA 260 of 2016) to the General Property Tax Act by amending Section 7jj and adding Section 7vv.

PA 262 of 2016 (SB 653) – Transitional Qualified Forest Property – Sen. Casperson

This new act makes related amendments to Section 51108 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by adding the requirement that the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the DNR, within 30 days of the amendatory act, establish in writing a basis of interdepartmental cooperation when an owner of forestland seeks to withdraw forestland from the CF program without penalty.

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