



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
LANSING



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TO: Natural Resources Commission  
FROM: Craig Brunet, Legislative Liaison  
SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources Legislative Update

**HB 5551 (H-3) – Decriminalize Improper Display of a Snowmobile Registration Decal or Trail Permit – Rep. Alexander**

This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of 1994, to make the improper display of a snowmobile registration decal or trail permit sticker to be guilty of a state civil infraction and may be ordered to pay a civil fine of not more than \$150.00.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

**HB 5684 (H-3) – Decriminalize Certain Snowmobile Penalties – Rep. Cherry**

The bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of 1994, to decriminalize specific snowmobile penalties in this state such as, failure to display registration, affixing wrong registration, affixing registration improperly, lost or mutilated registration, and snowmobiling along the highway. The bill would reduce the offense to a state civil infraction subject to a civil fine of not more than \$150.00.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

**HB 5687 – Decriminalize Failure to Exhibit Safety Certificate – Rep. LaFave**

The bill would decriminalize failure to exhibit safety certificate for a motorboat, making it a civil infraction instead of a misdemeanor, with a fine of up to \$150.00.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

**HB 5689 (H-1) – Decriminalize Operation of a Snowmobile Without Safety Certification – Rep. LaFave**

The bill would decriminalize failure to present a snowmobile safety certificate to any peace officers upon demand from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction with a fine of up to \$150.00.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

#### **HB 5697 (H-1)– Modify Penalties for Violations of Certain Hunting Provisions – Rep. Howell**

The bill would decriminalize the following hunting provisions from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction with a fine of not more than \$150.00: failure to attach individual's name, driver license number, or sportcard number to a ground blind; failure to attach individual's name, driver license number, or sportcard number to a tree stand, scaffold, or raised platform; and supplemental feeding of deer.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

#### **HB 5692 – Decriminalize Safety Standards for Snowmobiles – Rep. Markkanen**

The bill would decriminalize failure to have safety standards for snowmobile product certification from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction with a fine of up to \$150.00. The bill also decriminalizes operating a snowmobile without a crash helmet from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction with a fine of up to \$150.00.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

#### **HB 5693 – Decriminalize Off-Road Vehicles Improperly Crossing Street – Rep. LaFave**

The bill would decriminalize improperly crossing a street or road in an off-road vehicle from misdemeanor to a civil infraction with a fine of up to \$150.00.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

#### **HB 5694 (H-1) – Modify Penalties for Certain Hunting and Fishing Licensing Violations – Rep. S. Johnson**

The bill would decriminalize failure to carry your hunting or fishing license to a civil infraction with a fine of not more than \$150.00.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

#### **HB 5695 (H-1) – Modify Certain Penalties for Certain Fishing Violations – Rep. Mueller**

The bill would modify the following fishing violations to a civil infraction with a fine of not more than \$150.00: fails to attach the individual's name and address to tip-ups in violation of section 48703(2); or fishes with more than the authorized number of lines in violation of section 48703(1).

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

**SB 145 (H-3) – Provide Appropriations from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund – Sen. Bumstead**

This bill contains the recommendations made by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board for Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant awards for Fiscal Year 2020. The appropriation totals almost \$28.7 million in project funding from the trust fund.

- The bill was passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives. The bill has been signed into law by the Governor and is Public Act 145 of 2020.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

**SB 799 – Reconveyance of Property in Gogebic County – Sen. McBroom**

The bill would authorize the Department of Natural Resources to accept a transfer of property from the Gogebic County Road Commission in Gogebic County and then to transfer that property to Watersmeet Township. The parcel currently is owned by the Gogebic County Road Commission, which received ownership of the parcel from the DNR under the land conveyance authorized by Public Act 183 of 1988. The bill would require Watersmeet Township to use the parcel as a township park.

- The bill was passed by the Senate, passed out of the House Committee on Appropriations, and awaits a vote on the House floor.
- The Administration supports this legislation.