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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 (Department) Legislative Update

HB 4313 (S-1) – Create a Pheasant Stamp – Rep. Howell

This bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection act by creating an annual pheasant hunting license. The annual license would cost \$25.00 and would require all hunters to also have the base hunting license. The Upper Peninsula (UP) would be exempt from the license. All revenue from license sales will be used for the purchase and release of pheasants on state owned lands. The legislation requires the Department to use the money to release pheasants on lands managed.

- This bill was passed by the House of Representatives and is currently awaiting a vote on the Senate floor.
- The Administration is neutral on this legislation.

HB 4332 (H-1) – Allow Pneumatic Guns During Certain Seasons – Rep. LaFave

This bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to provide the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) the ability to allow an individual to use a pneumatic gun during any firearm season. The bill would also give the Department the ability to determine whether a pneumatic gun could be allowed during archery season for individual with a disability or physical limitation.

- This bill was passed by the House of Representatives and Senate and will be presented to the Governor for her consideration.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

HBs 4735, 4736, 4737 – Prohibit Certain Activities with Information Obtained under Freedom of Information Act – Reps. VanSingel, Cherry, and Love

This legislation amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by preventing an individual from using information listing the location of game obtained under the Freedom of Information Act to take game. The individual would be required to sign an affidavit stating that the data would not be used to take game or assist others in taking game.

- The bills were passed by the House of Representatives and have referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources. A hearing has been held in the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 5132 (H-2) – Allow Use of Trotlines or Juglines for the Taking of Nongame Fish and Snapping Turtles – Rep. Albert

This bill would require the NRC to establish a three year pilot program by April 1, 2021, on the use of trotlines or juglines on inland lakes and rivers to take nongame fish and snapping turtles and, within 90 days of completion of the pilot, issue a report to the Legislature on the use of juglines and trotlines. Also, if the NRC determined that the use of juglines or trotlines should be prohibited or restricted on certain inland lakes or rivers, the NRC would be required to provide a legislative report before the start of the pilot program explaining the principles of sound scientific management used to make those decisions.

- The bill was passed by the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation and referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

HB 5540 – Require Warrants for the DNR to Enter Upon Private Property – Rep. LaFave

This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of 1994, to restrict Department employees ability to enter upon private property unless they have permission from the land owner or lessee or if they are a Department peace officer or park and recreation officer with a warrant, reasonably believes evidence of a crime will be destroyed or they are in hot pursuit of criminal suspect.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and one hearing has been held.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

HB 5552 – Allow Export of Live Minnows, Wigglers or Crayfish as Bait – Rep. Alexander

This bill would allow for the export of live minnow, wigglers, or crayfish as bait.

- The bill was passed by the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreations and has been referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.
- The Administration is neutral on this legislation.

HB 5777 (H-2) – Modify Time Periods for Certain Department Land Transactions – Rep. Howell

The bill would extend the time period for the Department to approve or deny an application for a proposed exchange of state land and for a proposed sale of surplus land, from 180 days to 210 days. The bill would also require the Department to provide public notice at least 30 days before making a decision to dispose of, lease, or develop certain public land of more than 80 acres in size.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 5829 – Modify Michigan Trust Fund Board Membership – Rep. Cambensy

The bill would modify the membership of the Michigan Trust Fund Board to require it to include a resident of a county with a population of less than 100,000.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation and has had a hearing.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

HB 6027 – Free Fishing Licenses to Individuals with Developmental Disabilities – Rep. Sabo

The bill would make all-species fishing licenses available free-of-charge to individuals with developmental disabilities.

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

HB 6174 – Eliminate Helmet Requirement for 4-Wheel Off-Road Vehicles (ORVs) if Operator has Motorcycle Endorsement – Rep. Eisen

The bill would allow operators or passengers of an ORV with 4 or more wheels to be except from the helmet requirement if the operator has a motorcycle endorsement on his or her operator's or chauffer's license.

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

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

The bill would authorize the Department 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 Department 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 House and Senate and signed into law by the Governor. The bill is now Public Act 160 of 2020.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

SB 922 – Eliminate Helmet Requirement on Snowmobiles in Certain Circumstances – Sen. McBroom

The bill eliminates the helmet requirement for snowmobile use if a person possesses a written verification from a physician that the person, for physical or medical reasons, is unable to wear a helmet.

- The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and one hearing has been held.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

SB 923 – Eliminate Helmet Requirement on ORVs in Certain Circumstances
– Sen. McBroom

The bill eliminates the helmet requirement for ORV use if a person possesses a written verification from a physician that the person, for physical or medical reasons, is unable to wear a helmet.

- The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and one hearing has been held.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.