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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

SB 244 – Provides for Increased Reimbursement and Restitution Values for the Illegal Killing or Possession of Certain Game Species– Sen. Pavlov

This bill seeks to amend Section 40119 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to provide for increased reimbursement and restitution values for the illegal killing or possession of certain game species. These species include elk, moose, bear, eagle, hawk and waterfowl.

- This bill is currently before the Governor for consideration.

SB 245 – Provides for Increased Penalties for the Illegal Killing, Possessing, Purchasing or Selling of a Bear or an Antlered White-Tailed Deer– Sen. Zorn

This bill seeks to amend Section 40118 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to provide for increased penalties for the illegal killing, possessing, purchasing, or selling of a bear or an antlered white-tail deer.

- This bill is currently before the Governor for consideration.

SB 246 - Updates the Criminal Procedure Code to Reflect Poaching Penalty Updates- Sen. Zorn

This bill would make a complementary amendment to Section 13e of Chapter XVII of the Code of Criminal Procedure, by updating a reference to the applicable section of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act amended by Senate Bill 245.

- This bill is currently before the Governor for consideration.

SB 446 – Recreational Feeding Ban – Sen. Jones

This bill seeks to amend Section 40111a of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to move the sunset to 2020 of the Commission's authority to regulate deer and elk feeding in the state.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

SB 588 – Allows Tribal Conservation Officers to Request Licenses from Individuals for Hunting, Fishing, or Fur Harvesting in the Ceded Territory- Sen. Casperson

This bill seeks to amend Section 43516 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require Tribal Conservation Officers to be in uniform, display proper credentials, and be on duty within the ceded territory. The bill also defines a Tribal Conservation Officer.

- This bill was referred to the Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

PA 185 of 2015 (HB 4239) – Allows Hunting from a Personal Assistive Mobility Device – Rep. Smiley

This bill seeks to amend Section 40111 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow individuals, who possess a valid permit for hunting from a standing vehicle, to transport and possess an uncased loaded shot gun, if the action is open, and to also discharge the firearm from a personal assistive mobility device (PAMD) to take game. In addition, the 150 yard safety zone applies to firearm hunting only.

HB 4908 – Recreational Feeding Ban – Rep. Kivela

This bill seeks to amend Section 40111a of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to eliminate the sunset of the Commission’s authority to regulate deer and elk feeding in the state.

- This bill was referred to the full House for consideration.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 4983 – Free Recreation Passport on Free Fishing Weekends- Rep. Rendon

This bill seeks to amend Section 74116 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to prohibit enforcement of a recreational passport on free fishing weekends at state parks, state recreation areas, or state boating access sites.

- This bill was referred to the full House for consideration.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 5023 – Dark Sky Preserve Program- Rep. Pettalia

This bill seeks to amend Section 75102 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to designate the state owned land encompassing Rockport State Recreation, Negwegon State Park, and Thompson’s Harbor State Park as dark sky preserves.

- This bill was referred to the full House for consideration.
- The Administration supports 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.