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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 39 – Restrictions on Land Acquisitions, Land Sales and Land Management by the Department – Sen. Casperson**

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by prohibiting 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 bill provides counties 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. The bill also urges the Department to provide motorized public access to all lands under the control of the Department, modifies the process for land exchanges, sales and appraisal valuations, and requires for each forest management area the establishment of an allowable sale quantity, a minimum sale quantity, and management goals.

- This bill passed the Senate Committee of the Whole.
- The Administration opposes this legislation.

**SB 40 – Expands the Acceptable Uses of the Land Exchange Facilitation Fund to Pay Certain Costs – Sen. Booher**

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by amending Sections 2130, 2134, 2135, 2154 and 51106 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. In addition, the bill changes the name of the fund to the "Land Exchange Facilitation and Management Fund." The bill further increases the payment amount per acre on commercial forestlands.

- This bill passed the Senate Committee of the Whole.
- The Administration opposes this legislation.

**SB 1070-1072 – Requirements and Application Fee for Commercial Fishing & Hunting Guides – Sen. Zorn, Sen. Green**

Senate Bills 1070 and 1072 seek to add section 48714a and amend section 43528c, respectively, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require an individual to obtain a permit (subject to specific requirements) from the Department in order to act as a commercial fishing or hunting guide, beginning March 1, 2017. Senate Bill 1071 seeks to amend section 40113a of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to establish an application fee for a commercial hunting guide or commercial fishing guide permit. These bills are tie-barred to each other.

- These bills are before the Senate Committee of the Whole.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

**SB 1073-1075 – Display Certain Licenses with an Electronic Device – Sen. Meekhof, Sen. Zorn, Sen. Schmidt**

These bills seek to amend sections 43516, 43523a, 43525b, 43532, 43533, and 43536, add sections 43525b and 43526b, and repeal acts and parts of acts of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual who has been issued a hunting, fur harvester's, waterfowl or fishing license, to display the license electronically. In addition, the bills require the Department to develop an electronic license for non-kill tag species licenses not later than March 1, 2018. The bills also allow for the Department to work on the potential for hunters to use the application to show proof of their kill tag. In addition, each bill contains a provision that requires the Department to continue to expand the use of mobile electronic technology to begin to adopt other services that will further enhance hunting and fishing experiences for individuals in this state.

- These bills were referred to the House Committee on Tourism and Outdoor Recreation.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

**HB 5146 – Possession of a Deer or Elk Carcass from a State Listed as Containing CWD – Rep. Kivela**

This bill seeks to amend Section 40118 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to increase penalties against an individual who imports deer or elk carcasses. While these restrictions are currently contained in WCO, this bill would increase the penalty to not less than \$500 or more than \$2000, and/or up to 90 days imprisonment, and the costs of prosecution.

- This bill is before the Senate Committee of the Whole.
- 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](http://www.legislature.mi.gov).