



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



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TO: Natural Resources Commission
Department of Natural Resources Management Team

FROM: Craig Brunet, Legislative Liaison

SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources Legislative Update

HB 4018 (H-2) – Revise Penalty for Illegal Taking of Sturgeon - Rep. Allor

This bill will amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to increase the fine for the illegally taking of a sturgeon to \$5,000. The statute currently allows for a fine of between \$500 to \$2,000.

- This bill passed the House of Representatives on September 4, 2019 and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources. The Senate Committee has held one hearing on the bill.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 4313 (H-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 and would require all hunters to also have the base hunting license. The Department shall use the money to acquire, restore or enhance lands to be managed for the benefit of pheasants, and to release pheasants on lands managed for the benefit of pheasants.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation. The House Committee has held one hearing on the bill.
- The Administration is neutral on this legislation.

HB 4332 – Allow Pneumatic Guns During Certain Seasons – Rep. LaFave

This bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to provide the 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 out of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation and referred to the House Committee on Judiciary.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

HB 4439 (H-3) – Allow Supplemental Feeding of Wildlife and Birds – Rep. Cole

This bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow for the feeding of wildlife and birds if all of the following conditions are met: the feed is located within 300 feet from a residence; the quantity of feed placed, scattered, or distributed within 300 feet of that residence does not exceed two gallons; and the feed is contained, presented, or held in a manner to exclude deer and elk.

- The bill was passed out of 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.

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 out of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation and referred to the House Committee on Judiciary. The House Committee on Judiciary has held one hearing on the bill.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 4589 – Eastern Wild Turkey as State Game Bird – Rep. Howell

The legislation would name the Eastern Wild Turkey as the state's official game bird.

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

HB 4687 – Deer and Elk Feeding – Rep. Hoitenga

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual to engage in deer and elk feeding during the open seasons.

- This bill was passed the House of Representatives on November 5, 2019.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

HB 5114 – Allow Hunter Pink – Rep. Hoitenga

This bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to add the color hunter pink as an approved color to hunt during established daylight shooting hours from August 15 through April 30. "Hunter pink" means the highly visible color commonly referred to as hunter pink and includes bright pink, blaze pink, and fluorescent pink.

- 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 5115 – Clarify Eligibility for Obtaining Hunting License after Setting Aside Conviction – Rep. Eisen

This bill would allow an individual who has successfully had a firearm-related felony conviction set aside to not be ineligible for a license and is considered to not have been previously convicted for the purpose of obtaining a license. The bill is part of a three-bill package with House Bills 5020 and 5021, setting aside certain firearm-related felonies.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

HB 5132 – Allow Use of Trotlines or Juglines for the Taking of Nongame Fish and Snapping Turtles – Rep. Cole

This bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow for the use of trotlines or juglines on inland lakes and rivers to take nongame fish and snapping turtles. Under the legislation, individuals using this method of take would not be allowed to: use live bait, set the lines within 600 feet of dam, or use more than 10 trotlines. Additionally, individuals would be required to have contact information on the trotline or jugline, check all trotlines at least once each day, remove fish and animals caught in the lines, remove lines when not in use and ensure that juglines must be attended by or within sight of anglers at all times.

- 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.