



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH  
DIRECTOR

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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 78 – Prohibits the Designation of Biodiversity Areas – Sen. Casperson**

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to prohibit the DNR and the NRC from promulgating or enforcing a rule or order that designates or classifies an area of land, specifically for the purpose of achieving or maintain biological diversity. The bill also eliminates the conservation of biological diversity from the DNR's duties regarding forest management, and requires the DNR to balance its management activities with economic values.

- This bill is before the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

**SB's 795-797 & 799-800 – Increases Penalties for Prohibited Species Violations and Adds Additional Prohibited Species – Sen's. Kowall, Meekhof, Pavlov, Green, Casperson, Walker, Moolenaar, and Hansen**

These bills seek to amend various sections of the Michigan Compiled Laws to increase penalties for violations of introduction of prohibited, restricted, genetically engineered or nonnative aquatic species and also includes "insect" and "aquatic plant" in the prohibited list. To include additional criminal penalties; forfeiture of property; suspension or revocation of licenses or permits.

- These bills are before the full House for consideration.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

**SBs 926 & 927 – Prohibits the Use of Aerial Drones for the Taking of Game – Sen's. Casperson and Pavlov**

These bills seek to amend Sections 40102, 40111c, and 40112 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to prohibit the use of drones for the taking game or to interfere with or harass another individual who is hunting.

- These bills are before the full House for consideration.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

**SB 1056 – Provides for the Conveyance of Certain Property in Calhoun County after Acquisition from the Federal Government – Sen. Nofs**

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by adding Section 2120a to require the Department to locate current de facto owners of certain lands in Calhoun County and convey a portion of the property to these de facto owners.

- This bill is before the full House for consideration.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

**HB 5226 – Expands Crop Damage Permits to Include Bear– Rep. McBroom**

This bill seeks to amend Section 40114 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to include bear as a species for which a crop damage permit can be issued. The bill establishes specific deadlines for responding to a request for a permit and also requires that only a person with a valid bear hunting license shall be allowed to shoot the nuisance bear.

- This bill is before the full Senate for consideration.
- The Administration is neutral this legislation.

**HB 5563 – Creates a Disposal Process for Abandoned Vessels, ORVs and Snowmobiles – Rep. LaFontaine**

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to create a process for the disposal of abandoned vessels, ORVs and snowmobiles.

- This bill is before the full Senate for consideration.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

**HB 5952 – Removes the Use Restriction on Property Conveyed to Commerce Township – Rep. Kesto**

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to authorize the Department to receive and then convey property in Commerce Township for the development of a township library.

- This bill is before the full House for consideration.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

**HB 6080 – Modifies the Accumulated Principal and Allowable Expenditure Limitations in the MNRTF and Recreation Endowment Fund – Rep. LaFontaine**

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to modify the accumulated principal and allowable expenditures limitations.

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

**HB 6085 – Allows a Homeowners Association to Apply for a Temporary Buoy Permit – Rep. Genetski**

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow a homeowners association that borders the great lakes or their connecting waterway to requires a temporary permit for the placement of buoys from June 1 until September 30.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration has not taken a position on 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).