



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH  
DIRECTOR

December 13, 2018

TO: Natural Resources Commission  
Department of Natural Resources Management Team

FROM: Anna Mooney, Legislative Liaison, Legislative & Legal Affairs Office

SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources Legislative Update

**PA 359 (SB 1197) – Mackinac Straits Corridor Authority – Sen. Casperson**

This act authorizes the Mackinac Bridge Authority, or if appointed, the Mackinac Straits Corridor Authority (MSCA) to oversee construction and operation of a tunnel in bedrock beneath the waters of the Straits of Mackinac. The tunnel will house a replacement segment for the Line 5 petroleum pipeline that currently sits on the bottom of the Straits and accommodate other utilities to improve infrastructure connections.

**HB 5321 – Prohibit Sterilization of Game – Rep. Cole**

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to prohibit the department from issuing a permit to authorize the sterilization of game until April 2022.

- This bill has been presented to the Governor.

**HB 5711 – Firearm Use on Public Land– Rep. Cole**

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow a minor between the ages of 10 and 14 to hunt bear, deer or elk with a firearm on public land. This bill would also prompt the NRC to allow the same opportunity on public land to individuals with a Mentored Youth Hunting license.

- This bill has been presented to the Governor.

**HB 5836, HBs 5988-5989 –Electronic Boater’s Safety Certificate– Rep. Marino, Bellino, LaFave**

These bills seek to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual that is required to display their boater’s safety certificate upon request when operating a motorboat to do so electronically. The bill would also require the Department to allow law enforcement agencies to verify that an individual has obtained a boater’s safety certificate.

- These bills have been presented to the Governor.

### **HB 5866 – Sport Fishing – Rep. Bellino**

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to make several clarifications in decision making authority from the department to the commission in the section of law pertaining to sport fishing.

- This bill was reported from the Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism and is awaiting a vote on the Senate Floor.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

### **HB 5889 & 6076 – Lake Level Assessments -- Rep. VanSingel**

These bills seek to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow the department to pay the lake level assessments on tax-reverted lands, owned by the department, through special assessments.

- These bills were reported from the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and are awaiting a vote on the Senate Floor.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

### **HB 6124-6125 – Recreation Passport – Rep. Victory**

These bills seek to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act and the Motor Vehicle Code to expand where Recreation Passports are needed. This legislation would require an individual at a State Trailhead and a State Forest Campground to have a Recreation Passport.

- These bills passed the House and have been transmitted to the Senate.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

### **HB 6153 – Repeal of Obsolete Ruleset – Rep. Rendon**

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to repeal obsolete requirements and rulemaking authority for the Forest and Mineral Resources Development Fund.

- This bill was reported from the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and is awaiting a vote on the Senate Floor.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

### **HB 6525 – Transporting of Firearm – Rep. LaFave**

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual to transport a firearm uncased while in or upon a vehicle on private property.

- This bill passed the House and was transmitted to the Senate.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

### **HB 6355 – Transporting Minnows – Rep. Cole**

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual to possess or transport minnows for commercial purposes without a permit or license if the person purchased the minnows from a person that holds a permit or license to take, possess, or transport those minnows.

- This bill was reported from the Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism and is awaiting a vote on the Senate Floor.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

### **SB 1072 – Prohibited Species List – Sen. Kowall**

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to maintain a “Prohibited and Restricted Species” list. The bill would also require registration of all businesses engaged in selling aquatic organisms and would require record retention in a manner described by the DNR. The bill would also codify in statute DNR Fisheries Order for Fish Disease Control.

- This bill was reported from the House Committee on Natural Resources and is awaiting a vote on the House Floor.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

### **SB 1141 – Renaming Recreation Passport – Sen. Jones**

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to rename the Recreation Passport the “Senator Patty Birkholz Recreation Passport”.

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

### **SB 1145 – Commercial Fish – Sen. Casperson**

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to rescind rules R 299.771 and R 299.791 of the Michigan Administrative Code. Those rules have respectively prohibited the commercial fishing of lake trout in Lake Superior since 1962 and in Lake Michigan since 1965.

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

### **SB 1258-1259 – Recreation Passport Opt-out – Sen. Hansen**

These bills seek to amend the Michigan Vehicle Code and the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to change the current option for purchasing a Recreation Passport from an ability to opt-in to requiring an individual to opt-out of purchasing.

- These bills were reported from the Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism are awaiting a vote on the Senate Floor.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

### **HB 6490 – Authorized Shooter Liability Protection– Rep. VanderWall**

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to provide protection against liability for an authorized shooter carrying out activities permitted under deer management assistance permit.

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

**HB 6503 – Endangered Species Trafficking– Rep. Cochran**

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to create the Endangered Species Trafficking Act. An individual would be prohibited from purchasing, selling, or possessing with intent to sell, and item that is made of an animal part or byproduct from various endangered species.

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

**HB 6596 –Recreation Passport Opt-out – Rep. Singh**

This bill seeks to amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to change the current option for purchasing a Recreation Passport from an ability to opt-in to requiring an individual to opt-out of purchasing.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- 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).