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December 14, 2017

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

PA 176-188 of 2017 (SB 553-565) – Historical Marker Program – Sen. Schmidt, Hansen and Green

These acts make several technical changes to address the name change to the Michigan History Center and to align spending authority with the intended fund for the Historical Marker Program.

SB 316 – Frog Spearing with the Aid of Artificial Light – Sen. Booher

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by repealing Section 45501. Repealing this section will place the regulatory authority for the season for frogs and the prohibition on the use of artificial light to aid in the spearing of frogs at night with the Natural Resources Commission (NRC). The NRC has the authority to regulate the take of reptiles and amphibians in regard to all other matters. Removal of the season as well as the use of artificial light from statute places the regulatory authority over these two items with the NRC, similar to all other sport fishing regulations.

- This bill was returned to the Senate.
- The Administration supports this legislation

SB 552 – ORV Permit Sunset Extension – Sen. Hansen

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to extend the sunset on the off-road vehicle (ORV) license and trail permit fee to the year 2024. Current trail permit fee of \$10 and license fee of \$26.25 were enacted in 2013 and are set to expire on April 1, 2019.

- This bill passed the House and is awaiting the Governor's signature.

SB 596 – Trail Guidance – Sen. Hansen

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to recommend that the department develop guidance or framework for local trail managers. The bill would also suggest various topics that a Trails Council could consider for discussion.

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

HB 4380-4381 – Recreation Passport – Rep. Bizon and Wentworth

These bills seek to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act and the Michigan Vehicle Code to exempt an individual who was honorably discharged from the armed

services from having to pay the Recreation Passport fee if they submit proof of total or permanent disability.

- These bills were reported from the House Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs and are awaiting a vote on the House Floor.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 4533 – 3-day Hunting License – Rep. VanderWall

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by amending Section 43523a to allow a nonresident to purchase a 3-day limited nonresident small game license for \$50. Currently, a nonresident can purchase a 7-day limited nonresident small game license for \$80. This legislation would also allow an individual purchasing a 3-day or 7-day limited nonresident small game license to also purchase a waterfowl hunting license.

- 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 4573 – Mosquito Abatement – Rep. Sneller

This bill seeks to amend Chapter 16 of the Revised Statutes of 1846, which defines the powers and duties of townships. This legislation would allow townships to create a special assessment district for the purposes of financing mosquito abatement.

- This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Local Government.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 4787 – Ice Shanty Removal – Rep. VanderWall

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by amending Sections 46502, 46507, and 46508 to change requirements for how an ice shanty can be identified. Instead of an individual using their home address to identify their shanty, the bill would allow for the use of the owner's driver license number or their sportcard to be posted on the outside of the shanty. The bill would also remove the dates in statute for when shanties are required to be removed from the ice and would allow for the Department to set this date instead.

- This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 4957 – Mentored Youth Hunt – Rep. Howell

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual who purchased a Mentored Youth Hunting License to purchase additional licenses, including antlerless deer, bear and elk. The legislation would also clarify that the mentored youth is subject to the same license application process as other hunters are for purchasing additional licenses.

- 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 5001-5002 – Registered Forester – Rep. Rendon

These bills seek to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act and the General Property Tax Act to establish the Registered Forester Program within the Department of Natural Resources.

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

HB 5155-5156 – Adopt-a-River and Adopt-a-Shoreline – Rep. LaSata

These bills seek to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to clarify the requirements for the Adopt-a-River and Adopt-a-Shoreline programs within the Department of Natural Resources.

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

HB 5198 – All Hazard Response – Rep. Allor

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow the Department of Natural Resources to enter into agreements for all hazard incidents taking place out-of-state. Employees would be entitled to the same compensation and employee benefits as they would be in Michigan.

- 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.

HB 5200 – Update and Eliminate Certain Sections of NREPA – Rep. Howell

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to statutorily prohibit the taking of reptiles or amphibians for commercial purposes and to remove from the provisions of Part 13 (Permits) reference to a permit to collect frogs for scientific research currently required under Part 455.

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

HB 5233 – Youth Hunt Requirements – Rep. VanderWall

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require a minor that is participating in the youth hunt weekend to take an antlerless deer before they can take an antlered deer.

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

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.

- 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.