



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



DANIEL EICHINGER
DIRECTOR

December 10, 2019

TO: Natural Resources Commission
Department of Natural Resources Management Team

FROM: Craig Brunet, Legislative Liaison

SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources Legislative Update

HB 4313 (H-2) – 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 \$25.00 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.

- 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 neutral 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 and the Senate and will be presented to the Governor for her consideration.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

House Bills 5002 and 5003 – Youth Fishing License – Reps. Howell and Brixie

This bill package would reinstitute a \$2.00 fee for resident and nonresident youth under 17 years of age who wish to obtain an all-species fishing license. Youth under 17, would still be allowed to fish in Michigan without a license. However, youth under 17 who wish to purchase an all-species fishing license, would once again be able to do so for a \$2.00 fee.

- The bills were 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 5132 – Allow Use of Trotlines or Juglines for the Taking of Nongame Fish and Snapping Turtles – Rep. Albert

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 and one hearing has been held.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

HB 5140 – Provide Waiver of Fishing and Hunter License Fees for Volunteer Firefighters – Rep. Hoitenga

This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of 1994, to allow volunteer firefighters to be eligible to obtain any resident fishing or hunting license for which a lottery is not required, free of charge.

- 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 5167 – Provide for Automatic Yearly Renewal Options for Certain Licenses – Rep. Cherry

This bill allows for the implementation of yearly automatic renewal for all-species fishing licenses beginning March 1, 2020 and for base, fur harvester, and waterfowl licenses by March 1, 2021. Additionally, beginning March 1, 2022, the DNR would need to implement automatic yearly renewal for combination hunt and fishing licenses, deer licenses and limited hunt quota licenses contingent on a feasibility study for these licenses due to the legislature no later than July 1, 2021.

- 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 5168 – Modify Period for Purchase of a Preference Point or Entry for Limited Draw Hunts – Rep. Howell

This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of 1994, to allow a hunter to purchase a bear license preference point at any time during the licensing year. It also allows a hunter to purchase a chance in the random weighted drawing for an elk hunting license at any time during the licensing year.

- 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 5230 – Exempt Veterans from Recreation Passport Requirements – Rep. Kennedy

This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of 1994, to exempt a veteran with a valid, government-issued veteran identification that is operating or a passenger of a motor vehicle from the recreation passport requirements.

- 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 5244 – Establish Firearm Deer Hunting Season to Begin on November 5 – Rep. Eisen

This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of 1994, to require a regular firearm deer hunting season to begin on November 5 and end on December 1.

- 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.