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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



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TO: Natural Resources Commission
FROM: Craig Brunet, Legislative Liaison
SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources Legislative Update

**HBs 4567, 4568, 4569 – Update Commercial Fishing Statute –
Reps. O’Malley, Wendzel, Lilly**

The legislative package will update the commercial fishing statute. The bills include language that establishes/updates fees and penalties, clarifies authority regarding the commercial fishing industry, updates reporting requirements and codifies several existing practices under administrative rules or Director’s Orders.

- The bills were passed out of the House of Representatives and have referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, where one hearing has been held.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 5551 – Decriminalize Improper Display of a Snowmobile Registration Decal or Trail Permit – Rep. Alexander

This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of 1994, to make the improper display of a snowmobile registration decal or trail permit sticker to be guilty of a state civil infraction and may be ordered to pay a civil fine of not more than \$150.00.

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

HB 5552 – Allow Export of Live Minnows, Wigglers or Crayfish as Bait – Rep. Alexander

This bill would allow for the export of live minnow, wigglers, or crayfish as bait.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreations and one hearing has been held.
- The Administration opposes this legislation.

HBs 5558-5560 – Provide Regulations for Commercial Hunting and Fishing Guides – Reps. Howell, Cherry and Wakeman

These bills would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of 1994, to provide for the licensure and regulation of commercial hunting and fishing guides and to provide the Natural Resources Commission with the exclusive authority to regulate hunting and fishing guides.

- This bill was passed by the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation and referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 5687 – Decriminalize Failure to Exhibit Safety Certificate – Rep. LaFave

The bill would decriminalize failure to exhibit safety certificate for a motorboat, making it a civil infraction instead of a misdemeanor, with a fine of up to \$150.00.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and one hearing has been held.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 5689 – Decriminalize Reckless Operation of a Snowmobile – Rep. LaFave

The bill would decriminalize failure to present a snowmobile safety certificate to any peace officers upon demand from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction with a fine of up to \$150.00. The bill also decriminalizes operating a snowmobile at a speed greater than is reasonable and proper for existing conditions from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction with a fine of up to \$150.00.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and one hearing has been held.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 5697 – Modify Penalties for Violations of Certain Hunting Provisions – Rep. Howell

The bill would decriminalize the following hunting provisions from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction with a fine of up to \$150.00: failure to attach individual's name, driver license number, or sportcard number to a ground blind; failure to attach individual's name, driver license number, or sportcard number to a tree stand, scaffold, or raised platform; and supplemental feeding of deer.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and one hearing has been held.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 5692 – Decriminalize Safety Standards for Snowmobiles – Rep. Markkanen

The bill would decriminalize failure to have safety standards for snowmobile product certification from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction with a fine of up to \$150.00. The bill also decriminalizes operating a snowmobile without a crash helmet from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction with a fine of up to \$150.00.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and one hearing has been held.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 5693 – Decriminalize Off-Road Vehicles Improperly Crossing Street – Rep. LaFave

The bill would decriminalize improperly crossing a street or road in an off-road vehicle from misdemeanor to a civil infraction with a fine of up to \$150.00.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and one hearing has been held.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 5694 – Modify Penalties for Certain Hunting and Fishing Licensing Violations – Rep. S. Johnson

The bill would decriminalize failure to carry your hunting or fishing license.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and one hearing has been held.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 5695 – Modify Certain Penalties for Certain Fishing Violations – Rep. Mueller

The bill would modify the following fishing violations to a civil infraction with a fine of up to \$150.00: fails to attach the individual's name and address to tip-ups in violation of section 48703(2); or fishes with more than the authorized number of lines in violation of section 48703(1).

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and one hearing has been held.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 5777 – Modify Time Periods for Certain DNR Land Transactions – Rep. Howell

The bill would extend the time period for the DNR to approve or deny an application for a proposed exchange of state land and for a proposed sale of surplus land, from 180 days to 210 days. The bill would also require the DNR to provide public notice at least 30 days before making a decision to dispose of, acquire, lease, or develop certain public land of more than 80 acres in size.

- The bill was passed by the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation and referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.
- The Administration supports this legislation with requested changes.

SB 922 – Eliminate Helmet Requirement on Snowmobiles in Certain Circumstances – Sen. McBroom

The bill eliminates the helmet requirement for snowmobile use if a person possesses a written verification from a physician that the person, for physical or medical reasons, is unable to wear a helmet.

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

SB 923 – Eliminate Helmet Requirement on ORVs in Certain Circumstances – Sen. McBroom

The bill eliminates the helmet requirement for ORV use if a person possesses a written verification from a physician that the person, for physical or medical reasons, is unable to wear a helmet.

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

HB 5780 – Eliminate Helmet Requirement on Snowmobiles in Certain Circumstances – Rep. Markkanen

The bill eliminates the helmet requirement for snowmobile use if a person possesses a written verification from a physician that the person, for physical or medical reasons, is unable to wear a helmet.

- 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 5776 – Eliminate Helmet Requirement on ORVs in Certain Circumstances – Rep. LaFave

The bill eliminates the helmet requirement for ORV use if a person possesses a written verification from a physician that the person, for physical or medical reasons, is unable to wear a helmet.

- 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 5773 – Modify Membership of the Natural Resources Commission – Rep. Hoitenga

The bill would modify the membership of the Natural Resources Commission to require one member from each district of the Court of Appeals in Michigan.

- 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

House Resolution 269 – Oppose NRC Proposed Policy Change Requiring Orange on Hunting Blinds – Rep. Cole

A resolution to oppose the Natural Resources Commission's proposed policy change requiring orange coloring on each side of a hunting ground blind.

- The bill passed the House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation and was adopted by the House of Representatives.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this resolution.