



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
LANSING



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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

**PA 390 of 2018 (HB 5321) – Prohibit Sterilization of Game – Rep. Cole**

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

**PA 399 of 2018 (HB 5711) – Firearm Use on Public Land– Rep. Cole**

This act amends 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 act would also prompt the NRC to allow the same opportunity on public land to individuals with a Mentored Youth Hunting license.

**PA 400-402 of 2018 (HB 5836, HBs 5988-5989) –Electronic Boater’s Safety Certificate– Rep. Marino, Bellino, LaFave**

These acts 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 act also requires the Department to allow law enforcement agencies to verify that an individual has obtained a boater’s safety certificate.

**PA 451 of 2018 (SB 1072) –Prohibited Species List – Sen. Kowall**

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

**PA 529 of 2018 (HB 5866) – Sport Fishing – Rep. Bellino**

This act amends 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.

**PA 570 of 2018 (HB 6153) – Repeal of Obsolete Ruleset – Rep. Rendon**

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

**PAs 597-599 of 2018 and SJR O (SB 763, SJR O; SB 931-932) – MNRTF and SPEF Changes – Sen. Casperson, Hansen, and Booher**

These acts and joint resolution amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) and the Michigan Constitution to provide flexibility for the manner in which oil, gas and mineral royalty revenue is to be distributed to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) and the State Park Endowment Fund (SPEF). The acts and joint resolution allow for not less than 25% of the MNRTF to go toward acquisition, and not less than 25% to go toward development projects. Furthermore, at least 20% of the royalties from the SPEF must be used toward capital improvement.

**PA 609 of 2018 (HB 6050) –Breeding of Black Bears– Rep. Lauwers**

This act amends the Large Carnivore Act to allow a for-profit or nonprofit business meeting certain criteria to breed up to four black bears per year. The eligible business would have to be a business with a Class C license whose primary purpose of their business being the presentation of animals including large carnivore.

**PA 643 of 2018 (HB 6355) – Transporting Minnows – Rep. Cole**

This act amends 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.