



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: Craig Brunet, Legislative Liaison

SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources Legislative Update

**HB 4300 – Prohibit use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) by Department of Natural Resources, except in certain circumstances – Rep. Hoyenga**

This bill prohibits the use of an UAS by the Department or a Department contractor to surveil, inspect, gather evidence or collect data about privately owned property. The Department may use a UAS if they are granted permission by the property owner, have a valid search warrant, believe that there may be an imminent threat to public health, safety, property, or the natural resources of the state, or to inspect a roadway, airport, port or similar infrastructure.

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

**HB 4313 - 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.

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

**HB 4314 - Designate Official State Butterfly – Rep. Brixie**

This bill designates the black swallowtail butterfly as the official butterfly of the state of Michigan.

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

**HB 4340 –Prohibit the recording of individuals to obstruct or interfere with taking of animals or fish – Rep. Reilly**

This bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection act to prohibit an individual from photographing or recording an individual lawfully taking an animal or fish with the intent to harass that individual. This language will join a list of other actions currently

prohibited when the intent is to obstruct or interfere with an individual's lawful taking of animal or fish.

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

**HB 4361 – Allow Individuals to Fish on Qualified Private Lakes Without a Fishing License – Rep. Sheppard**

This bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by waiving the required all-species fishing license for individuals who reside on a Qualified Private Lake while fishing on that Qualified Private Lake. The individual must possess identification proving they reside on the Qualified Private Lake. A Qualified Private Lake is a lake that has no public access to the lake and where individuals who reside on the lake pay a fee to an association or group that uses at least a portion of that fee to stock fish in the lake.

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

**HB 4362 – Establish Uniform Hours of Operation for Watercraft on Public Lakes – Rep. Sheppard**

This bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by limiting the hours of operation a watercraft can be on a public inland lake to between 8:00 am and sunset, unless further limited by special rules promulgated by local ordinance recommended by the department. Rep. Sheppard has stated he is working on substitute language to better align language with his intent.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Government Operations.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

**HB 4365 – Required Representation on Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board – Rep. O'Malley**

This bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by requiring that of the 4 members appointed by the Governor, 1 individual must be a resident of the Upper Peninsula and 1 individual must be a resident of the Lower Peninsula, north of the Mason-Arenac Line.

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

**SB 167 - Designate Official State Butterfly – Sen. Hertel**

This bill designates the black swallowtail butterfly as the official butterfly of the state of Michigan.

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

**SB 227 – Allow Improvements to Certain Areas to Prevent Invasive Species or Signage Regarding Invasive Species – Sen. MacGregor**

This bill would add to the Public Improvements Act PA 188 of 1954, that Townships can make improvements to prevent invasive species or signage regarding aquatic weeds, plants and invasive species. Current law only allows for improvements to be made for the eradication or control of aquatic weeds and plants.

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

**SB 37 – Deer and Elk Feeding – Sen. VanderWall**

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 referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and a hearing was held for testimony only on April 10th.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

**HB 4244 Provide Appropriations for fiscal year 2018-2019; Natural resources trust fund – Rep. Green**

This bill contains the recommendations made by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board for Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant awards. The recommendations include 30 land acquisitions and 34 development grants. The 64 total grant awards total \$26,044,000, while also leveraging \$15,877,600 in local match, for a total investment of \$41,921,600.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Appropriations. The bill passed out of committee as a substitute H-1, passed the House of Representatives, and passed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee on 4/10/19.