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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

**Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act.**

Citizens for Professional Wildlife Management gathered the required signatures for a citizen's initiated legislation - Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act.

- The citizens-initiated legislation passed both the House and the Senate and becomes effective 90 days after this year's legislative session ends (approximately March/April 2015). While still on the ballot, the two other referendums would not be able to remove the NRC authority to designate game species or to manage the taking of fish regardless of outcome. The language of the two referendums can be found on the attachment.
- The Act will do the following three things:
  - Provide the NRC with authority to designate game species in Michigan and to manage the taking of fish.
  - Ensures the continued provision of free hunting and fishing licenses for active-duty members of the military who have maintained residency in Michigan.
  - Appropriates \$1 million to the Department in FY2015 for aquatic invasive species management activities designed to prevent, control, eliminate, or respond rapidly to, the presence of aquatic invasive species, such as Asian Carp.

**HB 5709 – Proportion Limitation on Property Due to Funding Source – Rep. Stamas**

This bill seeks to add Section 503d to the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require that limitations imposed on State owned property, due to funding source, are to be applied proportionally to sections of the property based on the amount of each funding source.

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

**HB 5722 – Exempt Watercraft 16' or Shorter With a Portable Electric Motor From The Boater Registration Requirement – Rep. Rendon**

This bill seeks to amend Section 80123 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to exempt watercraft 16' or shorter in length from boater registration when using a portable electric motor.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Tourism.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

**SB 1041 – Provides for a “Free Day in the Parks Program” and Requires the Department to Provide a Promotional Decal to Individuals Who have Paid The Recreation Passport Fee (or are exempt under (4)(c)) – Sen. Meekhof**

This bill seeks to amend Sections 74115 and 74116 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require the Department to establish a “Free day in the parks” program and also to provide to individuals who have paid the recreational passport fee or are exempt under subsection (4)(c) a promotional decal indicating that they individual is a supporter of Michigan Parks. A distinctive design must be used each year and is to be designed by the Department.

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

**SB 1042 – Provides For Opt-Out of the Recreation Passport Fee on Vehicle Registrations– Sen. Meekhof**

This bill seeks to amend Section 805 of the Michigan Vehicle Code to require the secretary of state to revise the format and language of an application for motor vehicle registration to allow an applicant to request that the application forms subsequently sent to the applicant include the recreation passport fee in the calculation of the total amount due but allow the applicant to elect not to pay the fee by subtracting it from the total amount due.

- This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.
- 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](http://www.legislature.mi.gov).