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TO: Natural Resources Commission  
Department of Natural Resources Management Team

FROM: Trevor VanDyke, Legislative Liaison and Policy Advisor

SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources Legislative Update

**PA 25'13 (SB 218) – Amend Water Resource Improvement Tax Increment Finance Authority – Sen. Goeff Hansen**

Amends the Water Resource Improvement Tax Increment Finance Authority (TIFA) Act to do the following: include dredging and other activities that enhance a waterway's navigability among the water resource improvements that may be financed under the Act; include the shoreline of a Great Lakes harbor, as well as connected land and tributaries, in the definition of "water resource improvement district;" delete the exclusion of chemical treatment for aquatic nuisance control, from water resource improvements eligible for financing. The act repeals a section prohibiting the creation of a water resource improvement TIFA or the expansion of a TIFA's development plan after December 31, 2011.

**PA 42-50' 13– Qualified Forest Programs – Sen. Booher, Sen. Casperson, Sen. Green, Sen. Booher, Sen. Meekhof, Sen. Moolenaar, Rep. Foster, Rep. McBroom, Rep. Rendon, (respectfully)**

Generally speaking, these public acts make substantial changes to the Commercial and Qualified Forest programs in an attempt to encourage the transfer of smaller, non-industrial owned parcels of land from the Commercial Forest program to the Qualified Forest program and increase enrollment in the Qualified Forest program. Amends some statewide forest administrative authorities under the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD).

**PA 59'13 – 2013-2014 General Omnibus Budget (DNR Budget) – Rep. Joe Haveman**

**Included:**

- Hunting & Fishing License Fee Proposal: \$11.4 M in Game & Fish Protection Fund
- ORV License Fee Proposal: \$2.7 M in Off-Road Vehicle Trail Improvement Fund
- Conservation Officers: \$4.6 M
- Summer Youth Employment Initiative: \$2.5 M
- Belle Isle: \$2.5 M
- Wildfire Protection: \$750k
- Michigan Historical Center received authority to charge admission for all visitors to the Michigan Historical Museum in downtown Lansing.

**Removed:**

- Great Lakes Research Vessel Chinook: \$2 M in General Fund
- Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Control: \$150k in General Fund
- Emergency Dredging: \$9.4 M in Waterways Fund

**PA 37'13 (SB 16) – Wildlife Violators Compact – Sen. Howard Walker**

Amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to authorize hunt/fish license suspension for failure to comply with a citation to enhance enforcement provisions and reciprocity of the wildlife violator compact.

**SB 163 – Wetland Permits – Sen. Mike Green**

The bill seeks to amend Parts 13 (permits), 301 (inland lakes and streams), 303 (wetland protection), and 325 (Great Lakes submerged lands) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to provide needed regulatory improvements to Michigan's wetlands program while also bringing our state into compliance with the Clean Water Act.

- The bill is before the Governor for consideration.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

**HB 4094 – Taking of Game in Another State – Rep. Joel Johnson**

This bill would establish that an individual shall not be prosecuted, punished, or penalized by this state for lawfully taking game in another state or for possessing that lawfully taken game in this state.

- The bill is before the full Senate for consideration.
- The Administration is neutral on this legislation.

**HB 4297 and HB 4439– Veterans License Plates Exemption – Rep. Frank Foster**

These bills would allow specific non-annual renewal veteran license plates to be exempted from the recreational passport for entrance into all state parks and recreation areas and designated state operated public boating access sites.

- The bills are before the full Senate for consideration.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

**SB 50 – ORV Use of Shoulders of Highways – Sen. Tom Casperson**

The bill would amend Part 811 (Off-Road Vehicles) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to do the following and more:

1. Prohibit the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) from requiring a permit merely for organized group recreational off-road vehicle (ORV) riding on Department land, or for an ORV event on the frozen surface of public waters.
  2. Require the DNR, within 90 days after the bill took effect, to develop and establish policy criteria for determining circumstances under which notice to the Department or a permit was required for ORV events on Department land.
  3. Authorize the DNR to enter into a reciprocal agreement with another state to waive the ORV licensure requirement.
  4. Require the DNR to designate at least two days each year as free ORV-riding days, during which ORV licensure would not be required.
- The bill is before the House Committee on Natural Resources.
  - The Administration is neutral to this legislation as introduced.

### **HB 4299 – ORV on County Roads – Rep. Jon Bumstead**

This bill seeks to:

1. Authorize a county, rather than an "eligible county", to adopt an ordinance permitting the use of off-road recreation vehicles (ORVs) on the maintained portion of a road in the county.
  2. Include a municipality (a city or village) in provisions that allow a township to adopt a similar ordinance and to close roads to ORV operation otherwise allowed by a county ordinance.
  3. Allow a village to adopt an ordinance to close roads to ORV operation otherwise allowed by a township ordinance.
  4. Allow a municipality, rather than a municipality in an eligible county, to adopt an ordinance authorizing the operation of ORVs on streets within the municipality.
  5. Permit a local unit of government to request the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to authorize the operation of ORVs on the far right side or shoulder of a State trunkline highway located within that local unit, and require the local unit to adopt an ordinance to that effect if the request were granted.
- The bill is before the full Senate for consideration.
  - The Administration is neutral on this legislation.

### **HB 4284 – ORV shoulder access on State Trunk Line – Rep. Joel Johnson**

The bill seeks to:

1. Allow a county, township, or municipality to request authorization from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to adopt an ordinance authorizing the operation of off-road vehicles (ORVs) on the shoulders of state trunkline highways located within that local unit.
  2. Prescribe criteria that MDOT would have to consider in making its decision regarding a local unit's request.
  3. Require the clerk of an "eligible county" to notify each township and municipality (a city or village) in the county of a proposed ordinance to allow the operation of ORVs on the maintained portion of a road in the county.
  4. Include a municipality in provisions that allow a township to adopt a similar ordinance and to close roads to ORV operation otherwise allowed by a county ordinance.
  5. Authorize a village to adopt an ordinance
- The bill is before the full Senate for consideration.
  - The Administration is neutral on this legislation.

### **HB 4283 – Allow certain deer rifles in the “shotgun” zone – Rep. Matt Lori**

The bill would allow individuals to use .35 caliber or larger rifle loaded with straight-walled cartridges that have a minimum case length of 1.16 and a maximum case length of 1.80 inches in the *shotgun zone* during firearm deer season:

- The bill is before the Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.
- The Administration opposes this legislation.

**HB 4668 – Hunting & Fishing License Restructuring – Rep. Jon Bumstead**

The bill would create a base hunting license and modify hunting and fishing licenses and fees. This is part of the budget implementation necessary for the DNR 2014 budget as passed out of both chambers.

- This bill is before the full Senate for consideration.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

**HB 4669 – ORV License Restructuring – Rep. Jon Bumstead**

The bill would amend Part 811 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to restructure the off-road vehicle (ORV) license from \$16.25 to \$26.25 for ORVs not used on state ORV trails or \$36.25 for ORVs that are used on state ORV trails.

- This bill is before the full Senate for consideration.
- The Administration supports 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).