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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 81' 13 (HB 4297) and PA 82'13 (HB 4439) – Veterans License Plates Exemption – Rep. Frank Foster

These acts 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.

PA 75' 13 (HB 4669) – ORV License Restructuring – Rep. Jon Bumstead

The act amends 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.

PA 98' 13 (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.

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 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 House for concurrence.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 4661-4664 – Regulations for Sporting Swine – Rep. Ed McBroom

These bills seek to exclude feral swine from the prohibited species list and establish the “sporting swine marketing act” that would establish regulations for sporting swine.

- The bill is before the House Committee on Agriculture.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation at this time.

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 House for concurrence.
 - 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 House for concurrence.
 - The Administration is neutral on this legislation.

SB 50 – Free ORV Riding Days – 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 takes 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 full House for consideration.
 - The Administration is supportive of 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.