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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



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TO: Natural Resources Commission

FROM: Craig Brunet, Legislative Liaison

SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources Legislative Update

HB 4313 (H-2) – 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.

- This bill was passed by the House of Representative and referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration is neutral on this legislation.

HB 4332 (H-1) – Allow Pneumatic Guns During Certain Seasons – Rep. LaFave

This bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to provide the NRC the ability to allow an individual to use a pneumatic gun during any firearm season. The bill would also give the department the ability to determine whether a pneumatic gun could be allowed during archery season for individual with a disability or physical limitation.

- This bill was passed by the House of Representatives and was referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration is opposed to this legislation.

HB 4740 (S-1) – Designate Dr. T.K. Lawless Park as a Dark Sky Preserve – Rep. Miller

This legislation amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by including the Dr. T.K. Lawless Park in Porter and Newberg Townships, Cass County and Headlands International Dark Sky Park, located in Wawatam Township, Emmet County as a Dark Sky Preserve.

- The bill was passed by the House of Representative and the Senate. The bill was signed into law by the Governor and is Public Act 74 of 2020.
- The Administration did not take a position on this legislation.

HBs 5401 (S-1) - 5402 (H-2) – Create Emergency Temporary Speed Restrictions on Local Waters – Rep. Eisen

These bills would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of 1994, to grant authority to the Department of Natural Resources, local sheriff, or county emergency management coordinator to create an emergency temporary speed restriction on local waters.

- The bills were passed by the House of Representatives and Senate. The bills were signed by the Governor and are Public Acts 70 and 71 of 2020.
- The Administration supported this legislation.

HB 5463 (S-1) – Provide for Temporary Emergency Rules in Water Control Zones – Rep. Lilly

This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of 1994, to provide for procedures to allow local political subdivisions to apply for temporary emergency rules for local watercraft controls.

- The bills were passed by the House of Representatives and Senate. The bill was signed by the Governor and is Public Act 72 of 2020.
- The Administration supported this legislation.

HB 5552 – Allow Export of Live Minnows, Wigglers or Crayfish as Bait – Rep. Alexander

This bill would allow for the export of live minnow, wigglers, or crayfish as bait.

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

HB 5659 – Create an Upper Peninsula Natural Resources Commission – Rep. Markkanen

This bill would create an Upper Peninsula Natural Resources Commission and establishes membership for the Commission. The bill is tie-barred to House Bills 5592-5594.

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

HB 5687 – Decriminalize Failure to Exhibit Safety Certificate – Rep. LaFave

The bill would decriminalize failure to exhibit safety certificate for a motorboat, making it a civil infraction instead of a misdemeanor, with a fine of up to \$150.00.

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

HB 5689 – Decriminalize Reckless Operation of a Snowmobile – Rep. LaFave

The bill would decriminalize failure to present a snowmobile safety certificate to any peace officers upon demand from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction with a fine of up to \$150.00. The bill also decriminalizes operating a snowmobile at a speed greater than is reasonable and proper for existing conditions from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction with a fine of up to \$150.00.

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

HB 5697 – Modify Penalties for Violations of Certain Hunting Provisions – Rep. Howell

The bill would decriminalize the following hunting provisions from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction with a fine of up to \$150.00: failure to attach individual's name, driver license number, or sportcard number to a ground blind; failure to attach individual's name, driver license number, or sportcard number to a tree stand, scaffold, or raised platform; and supplemental feeding of deer.

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

HB 5692 – Decriminalize Safety Standards for Snowmobiles – Rep. Markkanen

The bill would decriminalize failure to have safety standards for snowmobile product certification from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction with a fine of up to \$150.00. The bill also decriminalizes operating a snowmobile without a crash helmet from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction with a fine of up to \$150.00.

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

HB 5693 – Decriminalize Off-Road Vehicles Improperly Crossing Street – Rep. LaFave

The bill would decriminalize improperly crossing a street or road in an off-road vehicle from misdemeanor to a civil infraction with a fine of up to \$150.00.

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

HB 5694 – Modify Penalties for Certain Hunting and Fishing Licensing Violations – Rep. S. Johnson

The bill would decriminalize failure to carry your hunting or fishing license.

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

HB 5695 – Modify Certain Penalties for Certain Fishing Violations – Rep. Mueller

The bill would modify the following fishing violations to a civil infraction with a fine of up to \$150.00: fails to attach the individual's name and address to tip-ups in violation of section 48703(2); or fishes with more than the authorized number of lines in violation of section 48703(1).

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

Senate Bill 803 – Designate the Gray Treefrog the Official State Amphibian – Sen. Stamas

This bill would designate the gray treefrog as the official state amphibian.

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