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LANSING



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TO: Natural Resources Commission
Department of Natural Resources Management Team

FROM: Anna Mooney, Legislative Liaison, Legislative & Legal Affairs Office

SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources Legislative Update

PA 3 of 2018 (HB 4533) – 3-day Hunting License – Rep. VanderWall

This act amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow a nonresident to purchase a 3-day limited nonresident small game license for \$50. Currently, a nonresident can purchase a 7-day limited nonresident small game license for \$80. This act also allows an individual purchasing a 3-day or 7-day limited nonresident small game license to also purchase a waterfowl hunting license.

PA 4 of 2018 (HB 4957) – Mentored Youth Hunt – Rep. Howell

This act amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual who purchased a Mentored Youth Hunting License to purchase additional licenses, including antlerless deer, bear and elk. This act also clarifies that the mentored youth is subject to the same license application process as other hunters are for purchasing additional licenses.

HB 4787 – Ice Shanty Removal – Rep. VanderWall

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by amending Sections 46502, 46507, and 46508 to change requirements for how an ice shanty can be identified. Instead of an individual using their home address to identify their shanty, the bill would allow for the use of the owner's driver license number or their sportcard to be posted on the outside of the shanty. The bill would also remove the dates in statute for when shanties are required to be removed from the ice and would allow for the Department to set this date instead.

- This bill passed the Senate and is awaiting signature by the Governor.

SB 316 – Frog Spearing with the Aid of Artificial Light – Sen. Booher

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by repealing Section 45501. Repealing this section will place the regulatory authority for the season for frogs and the prohibition on the use of artificial light to aid in the spearing of frogs at night with the Natural Resources Commission (NRC). The NRC has the authority to regulate the take of reptiles and amphibians in regard to all other matters. Removal of the season as well as the use of artificial light from statute places the regulatory authority over these two items with the NRC, similar to all other sport fishing regulations.

- This bill passed the House and is awaiting signature by the Governor.

HB 5200 – Update and Eliminate Certain Sections of NREPA – Rep. Howell

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to statutorily prohibit the taking of reptiles or amphibians for commercial purposes and to remove from the

provisions of Part 13 (Permits) reference to a permit to collect frogs for scientific research currently required under Part 455.

- This bill passed the Senate and is awaiting signature by the Governor.

HB 5001-5002 – Registered Forester – Rep. Rendon

These bills seek to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act and the General Property Tax Act to establish the Registered Forester Program within the Department of Natural Resources.

- These bills passed the House and were referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 5155-5156 – Adopt-a-River and Adopt-a-Shoreline – Rep. LaSata

These bills seek to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to clarify the requirements for the Adopt-a-River and Adopt-a-Shoreline programs within the Department of Natural Resources.

- These bills passed the House and were referred to the Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 5198 – All Hazard Response – Rep. Allor

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow the Department of Natural Resources to enter into agreements for all hazard incidents taking place out-of-state. Employees would be entitled to the same compensation and employee benefits as they would be in Michigan.

- This bill passed the House and was referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 5321 – Prohibit Sterilization of Game – Rep. Cole

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to prohibit the department from issuing a permit to authorize the sterilization of game.

- Two hearings were held on the bill in the House Committee on Natural Resources. The legislation was referred to a subcommittee for further discussion.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 5378 – Free Fishing Licenses – Rep. Sabo

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to provide a free, all-species fishing license to an individual with a developmental disability.

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

HB 5416 – Hunter Pink – Rep. Johnson

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to include hunter pink as an allowable safety color to be worn while hunting.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration opposes this legislation.

HB 5417 – Transporting of a Bow – Rep. Johnson

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow an individual to transport a bow or crossbow in their vehicle without having to be unstrung, enclosed in a case or carried in the trunk of the car.

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

HB 5441 – Wolf Management Funding – Rep. LaFave

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to prohibit the department from expending state funds for the purposes of managing the state’s wolf population.

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

HB 5457-5458 – Public Lands Day – Rep. Cochran

These bills seek to establish the last Saturday in September as “Public Lands Day”. House Bill 5458 seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to waive the requirement of a recreation passport at a state park or recreation area on “Public Lands Day”.

- These bills were referred to the House Committee on Government Operations.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

SB 763/SJR O – MNRTF and SPEF Changes – Sen. Casperson

This legislation seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) and the Michigan Constitution to provide flexibility for the manner in which oil, gas and mineral royalty revenue is to be distributed to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) and the State Park Endowment Fund (SPEF).

This legislation would change the formula for funds currently distributed from the SPEF to designate at least 20% of the royalties to be used towards local public recreation projects. The proposed changes to NREPA and the Michigan Constitution would also allow for more grants to be awarded from the MNRTF each year for the development of public recreation facilities.

- This legislation was referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.
- 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.