

**HB 4250** primary sponsor – House Rep. Mark Meadows (D)  
**Deer and elk feeding; clarify prohibition.**

This bill places definitive language to the description of what depositing or distributing feed to wild deer means. This bill was written because of feed for birds being interpreted as feeding deer or elk. This bill has been referred to the House committee of Natural Resources, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation.

**HB 4259** primary sponsor – House Rep. Kevin Cotter (R)  
**Deer hunting season; establish to begin on the Saturday closest to November 15.** MBH has contacted the legislator who sponsored this bill as well as the vice chairman of the committee it has been referred to in opposition as written and suggest that if Saturday opener is deemed needed, to have it the closest Saturday AFTER the traditional November 15<sup>th</sup> opening date.

**HR 0002** primary sponsor Jim Stamas (R)  
A resolution to express opposition to the imposition of a ban of firearm hunting and snowmobiling in certain areas of the Huron-Manistee National Forest. HCR 0002 was adopted by a 110 to 0 vote in January, 2011. This is not a House Concurrent Resolution as previously reported.

**SB 0207** primary sponsor Joseph Hune (R)  
**Minimum hunting age; eliminate, and create mentored youth hunting program.**

This bill will;

- Eliminate the minimum hunting age (which is 10 or, to hunt deer, bear, or elk with a firearm, 12).
- Require the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to issue an order establishing a mentored youth hunting program within one year after the bill took effect.
- Require a mentor to be at least 21; have a valid hunting license, other than an apprentice license; and present proof of previous hunting experience.
- Establish a mentored youth hunting license for a person younger than 10, and allow a licensee to hunt with a mentor who was at least 21 in accordance with the program.
- Require the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to issue to the Legislature every four years a report evaluating whether the fee revenue from mentored youth hunting licenses was adequate to administer the program.

The fee for a mentored youth hunting license would be \$7.50, and would include all of the privileges conferred by all of the following:

- Resident small game license.
- Combination deer license.
- All species fishing license.
- Spring and fall turkey hunting licenses.
- Resident fur harvester's license.

A parent or legal guardian could allow a minor child younger than 10 to hunt only with a mentor in compliance with the mentored youth hunting program. The bill would take effect on September 1, 2011. This bill has been reported out of committee with favorable effect of substitute 3, has passed by the Senate and is in the House Committee Natural Resources, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation where it will come up in May. SB0207 looks sure to pass because of what speculation deems as a need to get youth afield in relaxing regulations.

**Constitutional Right to Hunt and Fish** Steps are being taken to make a constitution amendment in the state of Michigan to make it a individuals right to Hunt and Fish in Michigan

**HB 4021, HB 4028** primary sponsor Dave Agema (R)

Are designed to raid funds from the Natural Resources Trust Funds by changing state spending priorities. Roads are to get 60 percent of the trust fund revenues. Airports would get 20 percent and parks and trails or state parks would get the remaining 20 percent.

The NRTF was created in 1976 to buy lands for public recreation or to protect land for their environmental importance or scenic beauty and help local communities develop land for public use. MBH opposes these bills.

**HB 4577** primary sponsor Joel Johnson (R)

**Funds from the Natural Resource Trust Funds directed by Legislature to pay PILT funds.**

Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) are State of Michigan payments to local units of government in lieu of property taxes for the land owned by the State and administered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNRE). The payments are made by the Department of Treasury, and only on those public lands administered by the DNRE.

This House Bill introduced 4-21-2011, would direct funds from the Natural Resource Trust Fund, to pay PILT payments to local Michigan governments as decided by the Legislature. This bill at the time of this writing is in the House Committee of Natural Resources, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation.

**SB 0332** primary sponsor Thomas Casperson (R)

**Conveyance of certain state forest campgrounds; provide for. Creates land transfer act.**

Related to a 62% loss in campground funding within the MDNRE , the State has had to close 23 campgrounds. This Senate Bill introduced on 4-14-2011, would create an act to require the DNRE to offer/ convey closed State forest campgrounds to the townships or counties in which they are located; require the DNR to receive sealed bids or offer a closed campground for sale at a public auction if it were not conveyed to a township or county; and require the property conveyed to be used for public camping. Currently this bill is in the Senate Committee of Natural Resources, Environment and Great Lakes

Specified State forest campgrounds located in Alpena, Baraga, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Crawford, Dickinson, Grand Traverse, Lake, Luce, Mackinac, Marquette, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego, Schoolcraft, and Wexford Counties will be affected