

LEGISLATIVE BILLS

SB 412 primary sponsor Darwin Booher (R)

Wild turkey license fee; modify use. Currently a percentage of funds generated for turkey license sales and applications have to be used for scientific research, biological survey work on wild turkeys, and wild turkey management.

Under the bill, the money also would have to be used for the creation and management of wild turkey habitat on State land, national forestland, and private land; annual wild turkey population surveys; and annual random disease testing across the State's wild turkey range. To the extent possible, the DNR would have to use the fee money to create and manage wild turkey habitat on State forestland, State game areas, national forestland, and private land, where appropriate.

Before January 1 of each year, the Department would have to give the standing committees in the Senate and House of Representatives that primarily consider natural resources issues a report detailing the expenditures for the previous year.

This bill has passed through the Senate with substitute 1 unopposed and was referred to the House committee of Natural Resources, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation.

SB 0724 primary sponsor John Moolenaar (R)

Replacement hunting license if deer tests positive for tuberculosis. If an individual presents a lawfully taken deer at a department field office or check station and the initial examination OR after a laboratory test shows the deer was infected with tuberculosis, the department shall issue the individual a voucher or certificate for a free license to replace the one used. This bill currently is in the Senate committee of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.

SB 0775 primary sponsor Michael Green (R)

Amend use of certain firearms during firearm deer season. This bill introduced on 10/25/2011 and at the time of this writing remains in committee, would amend the current laws to create a limited firearms area to allow a person hunting deer during any firearm season to use **only** a shotgun with a smoothbore barrel, a .35 cal. Or larger pistol that holds no more than 9 rounds at one time, a .35 cal. rifle using straight walled cartridges with a min. case length of 1.16 inches and a max. of 1.80 inches or a muzzle loading rifle that utilizes black powder or a black powder substitute in the boundary area which

AREA SOUTH OF A LINE BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE WISCONSIN- MICHIGAN BOUNDARY LINE DIRECTLY WEST OF THE WEST END OF HIGHWAY M- 46; THEN EAST TO M-46 AND EAST ALONG M-46 TO ITS JUNCTION WITH FREEWAY US-131; THEN SOUTH ALONG FREEWAY US-131 TO M-57; THEN EAST ALONG M-57 TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH MONTCALM ROAD ON THE KENT- MONTCALM COUNTY LINE; THEN SOUTH ALONG THAT COUNTY LINE AND THE IONIA-KENT COUNTY LINE TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH M-44; THEN EAST ALONG M-44 TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH M-66; THEN NORTH ALONG M-66 TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH M-57; THEN EAST ALONG M-57 TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH M-52; THEN NORTH ALONG M-52 TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH M-46; THEN EAST ALONG M-46 TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH M-47; THEN NORTH ALONG M-47 TO ITS JUNCTION WITH US-10; THEN EAST ALONG US-10 TO ITS JUNCTION WITH I-75; THEN NORTH ALONG I-75 AND US-23 TO ITS JUNCTION WITH BEAVER ROAD, KAWKAWLIN TOWNSHIP, BAY COUNTY; THEN EAST ALONG BEAVER ROAD TO SAGINAW BAY; THEN NORTH 50 DEGREES EAST TO THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY WITH CANADA.

This bill currently is in the Senate committee of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.

SB 0685 primary sponsor John Proos (R)

Issuance of deer damage shooting permits, limit. This bill introduced 9/20/2011 would provide in the taking of animals to prevent or control damage and nuisance caused by animals on their property by permit to designate no more than 15 authorized shooters to implement to provisions of the permit. At this writing this bill has been reported favorably out of the Senate Committee on 11-29-2011

SB 0717 primary sponsor John Proos (R)

Hunters helping farmers program; create. Introduced on 10/4/2011 this bill would have the MDNR to establish a "Hunters Helping Farmers" program for the harvest of antlerless deer. The program would have to allow an individual who was willing to harvest antlerless deer to submit to the DNR an application to participate.

The person could select up to two counties where he or she would be willing to harvest the deer. The program also would have to allow landowners or farmers who felt they needed additional antlerless deer harvested on their property to contact the Department and request a list of the individuals who indicated a willingness to harvest deer in the landowner's or farmer's county. As of this writing this bill was reported favorably out of committee with substitute S-4 to the committee of the whole.

HB 4927 primary sponsor Rick Olson (R)

Penalties for illegally baiting. Amends sections 40102 & 40118 of 1994 PA 451 to define what is considered bait, increases the penalties for a baiting violation and has increased levels of penalties for future baiting violations. This bill was introduced September 8, 2011 and has not moved from the house committee of Natural Resources, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation

SB 248 primary sponsor Tom Casperson (R)

Property; land sales; purchase of state land using state funds; modify criteria. Amends sec. 503 of [1994 PA 451](#) (MCL [324.503](#)). This bill passed the Senate by a 24 to 14 vote on June 22nd and was stalled in the House Committee of Natural Resources, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation because of a grass roots effort of phone calls and emails to members of the committee. At the time of this writing remains in the House Committee of Natural Resources, Outdoor Recreation and Tourism and has not been amended with new language to make it more appealing. This Senate Bill would impose a permanent limit on the amount of land the MDNR could acquire for public recreation. Exceptions to this are limited to:

- A right-of-way for gaining access to other land owned by or under the control of the DNR.
- Land that was commercial forestland on the bill's effective date.
- Land acquired by the DNR through gift or litigation.
- Land in which the Department had acquired a conservation easement.
- A trail.

IMPORTANT

As written, this Senate Bill would also force the sale of over 250,000 acres of land the MDNR has.

Once the proposed SB 248 cap is reached, the State would be required to sell lands that exceed the cap. If a willing buyer does not come forward, the bill requires tax-reverted lands to be auctioned off to the highest bidder with no reserve price – in other words land could sell for pennies on the dollar.

Last legislative session, there was an attempt in the form of HB 5058 and SB 730 to force the sale of a parcel of publicly-owned land in Iosco County to a developer looking to build a new golf course, even though the land was not considered excess.

MBH members are encouraged to contact their House Representative and request they oppose this bill as written.

HB4684 primary sponsor Greg MacMaster (R) This bill would have forced the MDNR to allow pack & trail riders on certain state lands as well as prohibit the DNR from issuing or enforcing an order under Section 504 that restricts the use of pack and sale animals on pack and saddle trailways. This would have put \$24.5 million dollars from the Pittman/Robertson Federal funding in jeopardy and forced the state of Michigan to return these needed funds to the Federal Government. Because of grass roots action of

phone calls and emails, this legislation has been stalled in the House Committee of Natural Resources, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation.

HB5226 primary sponsor Harold Haugh (D) This bill introduced on 12-14-2011 would create criteria to allow the superintendent or their designee as authorized to allow a child to hunt game as provided in sections 43517-43520 of the Natural Resources and Environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451. It was referred to the House Committee of families, Children and Seniors

MUCC

Conservation Coalition report. MBH as a part of the Conservation Coalition is included in the organizations that have signed on to a 2012 memorandum to the MDNR which states that;

1. Michigan needs a coordinated approach to improving wildlife habitat that encompasses state, federal and private lands.
2. The Department should communicate broadly with hunters, anglers and trappers and the general public on the outcomes from conservation dollars. Tell us what is better/ different because of the expenditure of conservation dollars.
3. Michigan's natural resource agencies and the Natural Resource Commission should work with the Conservation Coalition and its members to improve how they communicate with and engage the public.
4. Natural resources management must utilize the social, market and economic data that is available to help shape and evaluate the existing and new programs and regulations.
5. The DNR and the Conservation Coalition needs to continually evaluate the programs and efforts at recruitment and retention and use good data to refine them.

The Conservation Coalition strives to have constructive input through communication together with the diverse organizations of the coalition and the MDNR.

MDNR

Federal Decision Removes Wolves from Endangered Species List

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources applauded the US Fish and Wildlife Service's decision on December 21,2011 to remove wolves in the western Great Lakes region from the federal endangered species list. The decision returns management of the species to the state level.

The federal delisting rule removing wolves from the endangered species list will be published in the Federal Register Wednesday, Dec. 28, and will take effect Friday, Jan. 27, 30 days after its publication. This allows the DNR to more effectively manage the species under Michigan's highly-regarded Wolf Management Plan, which was created through a roundtable process involving interested parties representing viewpoints from all sides of the wolf issue.

Once wolves are removed from the endangered species list, the DNR will continue to recommend nonlethal methods of control first, including flashing lights, flagging and noisemakers. In addition, the DNR administers a grant program that provides some funding to livestock owners with depredation issues for improved fencing and guard animals such as llamas, donkeys and Great Pyrenees dogs.

However, in cases where nonlethal methods are not working or feasible, DNR officials will now have the ability to kill problem wolves when appropriate. Under federal Endangered Species Act protection, wolves are protected from lethal control measures except in defense of human safety.