

LEGISLATIVE BILLS

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 was referred to the house committee of Natural Resources, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation

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. These bills have not moved out of the House Committee of Natural Resources, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation since being introduced in January 2011

HB 4259 primary sponsor 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 15th opening date. This bill at this writing remains in the House committee of Natural Resources, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation where it was introduced in February 2011.

SWINE HOUSEBILLS

These Bills are tie barred together HB 4504-4505-4506 -4507 & 4699.

HB 4503 primary sponsor House Representative Ed Broom (R) creates a new act, "the Sporting Swine Marketing Act," which would require a person operating a sporting swine livestock operation to obtain a three year registration from the Department of Natural Resources.

HB 4504 primary sponsor House Representative Sharon Tyler (R) would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to exclude sporting swine species from the definition of "game." It would also exclude sporting swine in sporting swine operations from provisions that allow the Department of Natural Resources to regulate the taking or killing of all fish, game and fur-bearing animals, and game birds. (These exemptions are similar to those provided to privately owned Cervidae

HB 4505 primary sponsor House Representative Sharon Tyler (R) would amend the Cervidae Act to allow a Cervidae livestock operation to be operated as both a Cervidae livestock operation and a sporting swine livestock operation provided the owner meets the requirements of both the Cervidae Act and the Sporting Swine Marketing Act

HB 4506 primary sponsor House Representative Ed McBroom (R) would amend the Code of Criminal Procedure to put felony penalties contained in the Sporting Swine Marketing Act into sentencing guidelines. (It would also rewrite some existing descriptions of felonies.)

HB 4507 primary sponsor House Representative Ed McBroom (R) would transfer the administration of the Cervidae Act from the Department of Natural Resources to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

HB 4699 primary sponsor House Representative Ed McBroom (R) would amend the Animal Industry Act to prohibit indemnification payments from being made for sporting swine on a sporting swine livestock operation. However, if a disease eradication effort is ordered by the director for a sporting swine operation, the department would be required to develop a herd depopulation plan. This Bill was tie barred at a later date to those above, passed the house with substitutes by a 62-46 vote and referred to the Senate Committee of Agriculture

At this writing, these bills passed the House of Representatives and have been referred to the Senate Committee of Agriculture.

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 at the time of this writing is in the House Committee of Natural Resources, Outdoor Recreation and Tourism. This Senate Bill would impose a permanent a 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 vote **NO** on Senate Bill 248 introduced to limit the amount of land the MDNR may own for public recreation.

SIGNED BILLS

HB 4371 primary sponsor Peter Pettilla (R)

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

These bills will;

- Eliminate the minimum hunting age.
- Require the Natural Resources Commission to establish a mentored youth hunting program.
- 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.
- Lower the age to 10 for certain discounted hunting license fees, and set a fee of \$7.50 for a mentored youth hunting license. The license would include a resident small game license, combination deer license, all species fishing license, spring and fall turkey hunting licenses, and a resident fur harvester license.
- Require the Department of Natural Resources to report to the Legislature every four years regarding the adequacy of the revenue from mentored youth hunting licenses.

Under Senate Bill 207, the Natural Resources Commission IS required to establish by order a Mentored Youth Hunting Program **within one year after** the bill's effective date of September 1, 2011. The order would have to provide that: (1) a mentor be at least 21 years of age; (2) a mentor possess a valid license to hunt, other than an apprentice license, before participating in the program; and (3) an individual could not be a mentor without presenting proof of previous hunting experience in the form of a previous hunting license, other than an apprentice license, or a certification of completion of training in hunter safety issued by Michigan, another state, a province of Canada, or another country.

Frequently Asked Questions: Hunter Heritage Law/Mentored Youth Hunting Program

What does the new law do?

The law allows youths under the age of 10 to hunt with a mentor. Mentored youths will be required to obtain a mentored youth hunting license and hunt in conjunction with the mentored youth hunting program, which is now being developed.

When does the program begin?

In the coming months, the NRC will engage with both department staff and external partners in developing the mentored youth hunting program, with the objective of having this program up and running for the 2012 license year.

How much will a mentored youth hunt license cost?

The cost for a mentored youth license is \$7.50. The fee was established in the legislation that created the license.

What hunting privileges are provided under this license?

Resident small game, combination deer, spring and fall turkey, all-species fishing, and resident fur harvesters.

What is the apprentice license?

The apprentice license is for anyone 10 years of age and older who has not received hunter safety certification. An individual may hunt with an apprentice license for two license years. A regular licensed hunter who is 21 years or older must accompany the apprentice license holder into the field.

What license do I purchase once I receive my hunter safety certification?

If you are 10 years of age or older with hunter safety certification, you can purchase regular hunting licenses.

MDNR UPDATES

August NRC meeting information showed that the Recreational Passport program where the additional \$10 paid during the purchase of vehicle license tabs did indeed hit its target mark which the MDNR hoped

for. At an increase in State Park Passport purchases of 24% the state parks are seeing more day users and helping to keep the needed funds for the state parks solvent for operational cost. Camping numbers are up 5% and the pop-up campers which the state purchased to get people who were not interested in tent camping have paid for themselves through their paid use.

With assistance from the Parks & Recreation Division Maple River Recreation area in partnership with Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever, area dilapidated dike work had been repaired, Autumn Olive that was strangling habitat was removed and grassland planting for pheasant habitat was done. Overall enhancing the habitat for wildlife and hunters.

The Wildlife & Parks and Recreation Divisions gave power point presentations concerning Game and Fish funds as well as Parks and Recreation funds. Both presentations are quite extensive and printable size to view in the MBH News would leave no room for anything else. These can be viewed on the MDNR website at: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/Wildlife_Presentation1_360874_7.pdf

and http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/Parks_Presentation1_360873_7.pdf