

Legislative Analysis



FOX AND COYOTE HUNTING FROM TREE STANDS

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House Bill 4407

Sponsor: Rep. Dudley Spade

Committee: Tourism, Outdoor Recreation, and Natural Resources

Complete to 3-12-07

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4407 AS INTRODUCED 3-6-07

The bill would permit hunters to take fox or coyote from a scaffold, platform, or tree if the taking is otherwise lawful. Fox and coyote hunters using raised platforms on public lands would have to comply with all labeling and other general requirements applicable to the use of raised hunting structures on public lands. The bill would create a new Section 40111b in the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (MCL 324.40111b).

FISCAL IMPACT:

There would be no fiscal impact on the state or on local governmental units.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Department of Natural Resources, a tree stand or other raised hunting platform used on public lands must be portable with the hunter's name and address affixed legibly so that it can be easily read from the ground. Hunting platforms cannot be affixed or attached to any tree by nails, screws, or bolts; however, a "T" bolt or similar device supplied by a tree stand manufacturer may be used. No permanent tree stands are allowed on public lands.

There is a statewide coyote season from July 15 through April 14. Michigan residents possessing a valid small-game license may hunt coyote during the established season. Non-residents must have a fur harvester's license. The coyote season is closed in Zones 1 and 2 (Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Peninsula) during the firearms deer hunting season (November 15 through November 30). Coyote may be taken on private property by a property owner or designee at any time if they are doing or about to do damage on private property. No license is needed in this situation. Gray and red fox hunting is allowed from October 15 through March 1. Both residents and non-residents must have a fur harvester's license to hunt fox.

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