

ELECTRONIC HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES

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Senate Bill 1073 as enacted
Public Act 461 of 2016
Sponsor: Sen. Arlan Meekhof

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

Senate Bill 1074 as enacted
Public Act 462 of 2016
Sponsor: Sen. Dale W. Zorn

Senate Bill 1075 as enacted
Public Act 463 of 2016
Sponsor: Sen. Wayne Schmidt

House Committee: Tourism
Senate Committee: Tourism and Outdoor Recreation
Complete to 7-9-18

SUMMARY:

Each of the bills amends Part 435 (Hunting and Fishing Licensing) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to develop electronic licenses that individuals can display using electronic devices, no later than March 1, 2018.

Senate Bill 1073 applies to a base license for hunting, fur harvesting (trapping), or fishing.

Senate Bill 1074 applies to a waterfowl license.

Senate Bill 1075 applies to an all-species fishing license, a 24-hour or 72-hour fishing license, or a senior all-species fishing license.

Senate Bill 1073 specifies that an individual who displays an electronic copy of the base license is not presumed to have consented to a search of the device. It also specifies that the state or a law enforcement agency, or its employees, a tribal conservation officer, or the owner or occupant of the land is not liable for damage to an electronic device that occurs as a result of viewing an electronic copy of the license.

The bill also requires the DNR to continue to explore the expanded use of electronic technology to provide additional services that will enhance hunting and fishing experiences for individuals in Michigan.

In addition to those provisions, Senate Bill 1073 also (1) allows the DNR to develop an electronic license permitting an individual to display an electronic copy of a kill tag for various hunting licenses using an electronic device and (2) repeals Section 43545, which prohibited the department, beginning March 1, 2019, from assessing or collecting any license or permit fees authorized under Part 435.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The electronic hunting license provisions included in Senate Bills 1073 through 1075 would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on the Department of Natural Resources. The cost of issuing hunting and fishing licenses electronically is difficult to determine. It is unclear whether changing from a paper-based system to an electronic system would create an additional strain on existing departmental resources or whether such a change would be covered by existing levels of funding and personnel.

Senate Bill 1073 would also repeal a March 1, 2019, sunset for all hunting and fishing licenses, which would have a positive impact on departmental revenue. This change would allow DNR to continue to collect license revenue beyond the current sunset without an end date. The department estimates that hunting and fishing licenses generated \$63.2 million in revenue for FY 2015-16. These bills would not affect costs or revenues for local units of government.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.