



Senate Fiscal Agency
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Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

BILL ANALYSIS

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Senate Bill 1073 (as reported without amendment)
Sponsor: Senator Arlan Meekhof
Committee: Outdoor Recreation

CONTENT

The bill would amend Part 435 (Hunting and Fishing Licensing) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require the Department of Natural Resources, by March 1, 2018, to develop an electronic base license for display on an electronic device, and permit the Department to develop an electronic license that allowed an individual to display an electronic copy of his or her kill tag under Sections 43524, 43527a, 43528, 43528a, 43528b, and 43529. (Those sections provide for wild turkey hunting licenses, second deer licenses and kill tags, bear hunting licenses and kill tags, moose hunting licenses and kill tags, wolf hunting licenses and kill tags, and elk hunting licenses and kill tags, respectively.)

The bill also would require an individual who held a hunting, fur harvester's, or fishing license, beginning March 1, 2018, to carry it (as currently required) or, if applicable, an electronic copy of the license, and to exhibit it upon demand under certain conditions.

The bill specifies that an individual who displayed an electronic copy of his or her license would not be presumed to have consented to a search of the device. The State or a law enforcement agency, or its employees, would not be liable for damage to an electronic device that occurred as a result of a conservation officer or law enforcement officer viewing an electronic copy of the license.

The bill also would repeal Section 43545, which prohibits the Department, beginning March 1, 2019, from assessing or collecting any license or permit fees authorized under Part 435.

MCL 324.43516 et al.

Legislative Analyst: Jeff Mann

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and no fiscal impact on local units of government. It is not clear how much the development of an electronic base license would cost, or if development would be possible within existing contracts. Any additional costs would likely be borne by existing appropriations from the Game and Fish Protection Fund.

The bill also would repeal a March 1, 2019, sunset on all hunting and fishing license fees. In total, those fees generate approximately \$62.5 million per year, are credited to the Game and Fish Protection Fund, and support the DNR's fish and game management programs.

Date Completed: 9-27-16

Fiscal Analyst: Josh Sefton