

# Legislative Analysis



## ACCOMPANIED MINORS HUNTING DEER, BEAR, OR ELK ON PUBLIC LAND: CHANGE AGE FROM 14 TO 10

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<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

**House Bill 5711 as introduced**  
**Sponsor: Rep. Triston Cole**  
**Committee: Natural Resources**  
**Complete to 4-10-18**

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

### SUMMARY:

House Bill 5711 would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) to change (from 14 years old to 10) the age at which minor children can hunt deer, bear, or elk with a firearm on public land.

Currently, a minor child who is at least 10 but less than 14 years old can hunt under a license to take deer, bear, or elk with a firearm only on private property and only when accompanied by his or her parent or guardian or by another individual authorized by a parent or guardian who is at least 18 years old or, for an apprentice license, who is 21 years old and licensed to hunt that game under a license that is not an apprentice license.

The bill would eliminate the provisions restricting those minor children to hunting deer, bear, or elk with a firearm only on private property.

Under the bill, a minor child who is at least 10 years old could hunt any game on land on which a parent or guardian is regularly domiciled, whether accompanied or alone, or on other public or private land if he or she is accompanied by a parent or guardian or by another individual authorized by a parent or guardian who is at least 18 years old or, for an apprentice license, who is 21 years old and licensed to hunt that game under a license that is not an apprentice license.

MCL 324.43517

### FISCAL IMPACT:

It is unclear whether House Bill 5711 would affect revenues for the DNR. The statutory changes in the bill are likely to expand hunting opportunities for minor children, but the effect of this expansion on hunting license sales is indeterminate at present. The sale of hunting and fishing licenses generated approximately \$62.1 million in FY 2016-17.

The bill is unlikely to affect costs for the department and would have no fiscal impact on local units of government.

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