

Legislative Analysis



PHEASANT HUNTING LICENSE FEE ALLOCATIONS

Phone: (517) 373-8080
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House Bill 4126 (proposed substitute H-1)

Sponsor: Rep. Gary Howell

Committee: Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation

Complete to 2-17-21

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

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4126 would amend Part 435 (Hunting and Fishing Licensing) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) to change the allocation of fees collected for pheasant hunting licenses.

Currently under NREPA, 100% of the fees collected for each pheasant hunting license must be deposited in the Pheasant Subaccount of the Game and Fish Protection Fund. (The fee for a pheasant hunting license is \$25.)

Under the bill, the fees would be deposited into that subaccount after allocations are made as provided for in sections 43541 and 43555 of NREPA:

Section 43541 allows a person authorized to issue licenses to retain 7.5% of the fees for each sportcard, license, duplicate license, application, or permit sold.

Section 43555 requires 35 cents from each license and stamp fee prescribed by Part 435 (except fees for certain licenses issued to minors) to be deposited in the Wildlife Resource Protection Fund.

In addition, the law currently allows the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to spend money from the subaccount to release live pheasants on state-owned land suitable for pheasants. The bill would also allow the money to be spent for costs associated with the purchase of live pheasants to be released.

MCL 324.43525c

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4126 is likely to decrease revenue for the DNR by diverting a portion of the pheasant hunting permit revenue from departmental funds to permit retailers; the extent of this revenue decrease is dependent on the number of permits sold, which is unclear at present. Current law provides for 100% of permit revenue to be deposited to the pheasant subaccount within the larger Game and Fish Protection Fund established in the State Constitution of 1963. It is important to note that statute dictates hunting permit revenue diversion to permit retailers for other extant species-specific permits, so the bill would bring pheasant hunting permit revenue in line with other permits. The sale of hunting and fishing licenses generated \$65.6 million in revenue for DNR in FY 2019-20. The

department's Wildlife Division has a budget of \$46.8 million for FY 2020-21, including \$46.2 million for wildlife management programs. The bill is unlikely to affect departmental costs, local government costs, or local government revenues.

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