

# Legislative Analysis



## REPEAL CERTAIN AUTHORITY OF DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Phone: (517) 373-8080  
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

**House Bill 6192 as reported from committee**  
**Sponsor: Rep. Beau Matthew LaFave**  
**Committee: Oversight**  
**Complete to 6-29-22**

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

### SUMMARY:

House Bill 6192 would repeal section 41103 of Part 411 (Protection and Preservation of Fish, Game, and Birds) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act.

Section 41103 now provides that, if the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) determines that any fish, game or fur-bearing animals, or game birds are in danger of depletion or extermination and require additional protection in designated waters or areas, it may issue an order suspending or shortening the open season on fish, game or fur-bearing animals, or game birds or may regulate the taking or killing of that wildlife in the waters or area as the department considers necessary for their further protection. Such an order cannot remain in effect for more than five years. Section 41103 prescribes requirements for the DNR to notify the public of orders changing the rules pertaining to hunting, fishing, or trapping.

Section 41103 also does all of the following:

- Requires the DNR to establish the seasons, size limits, creel limits, and methods of taking fish in certain designated inland lakes for the purpose of fisheries research.
- Allows the DNR to establish several experimental game management areas, including one that includes Beaver Island and the four islands comprising the Little Beaver Islands State Park, and to establish rules and orders governing the kind of game that may be taken in these areas and the time, place, and manner of the taking.
- Requires the DNR to publish notice of the availability of the annual sports fishing handbook, and to notify the public of an amendment, correction, or addition to the handbook, in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the state.

MCL 324.41103 (repealed)

### FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 6192 would decrease publishing costs for the Department of Natural Resources by eliminating the requirement to annually publish notification of the sports fishing handbook. The department may also realize a cost savings in the prohibition of issuing certain wildlife-related orders, including hunting and fishing regulations. The bill is unlikely to directly affect departmental revenues. It remains to be seen whether the bill would have an indirect effect on revenue captured through the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. The sale of all hunting and fishing licenses generated an estimated \$66.2 million

in FY 2020-21 revenue, which DNR uses primarily to support programs in wildlife and fisheries. In the current fiscal year, \$83.4 million is appropriated from the Game and Fish Protection Fund/sub-funds in the DNR budget. Appropriations in the department's Wildlife and Fisheries Divisions total \$46.7 million Gross (\$4.5 million GF/GP) and \$32.9 million Gross (\$541,700 GF/GP), respectively, in the current fiscal year.

The bill is unlikely to affect local government revenues or costs.

**POSITIONS:**

A representative of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy testified in support of the bill.  
(6-15-22)

Legislative Analyst: Susan Stutzky  
Fiscal Analyst: Austin Scott

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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.