



Senate Fiscal Agency
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House Bill 4126 (Substitute H-1 as passed by the House)
Sponsor: Representative Gary Howell
House Committee: Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation
Senate Committee: Natural Resources

Date Completed: 3-16-21

CONTENT

The bill would amend Part 435 (Hunting and Fishing Licensing) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to do the following:

- **Require the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to deposit the fee collected from each pheasant hunting license, except as otherwise provided, into the pheasant subaccount of the Game and Fish Protection Account.**
- **Require the DNR to spend money in the pheasant subaccount only for costs associated with the purchase and release of live pheasants on suitable State-owned land.**

Under the Act, an individual 18 years of age or older may not hunt pheasants without a current annual pheasant hunting license. The fee for the pheasant hunting license is \$25. The DNR must deposit 100% fee collected from each pheasant hunting license into the pheasant subaccount of the Game and Fish Protection account. The money within the subaccount must be spent, upon appropriation, only to release live pheasants on State-owned land suitable for pheasants.

Under the bill, except as provided in Sections 43541 and 43555, the DNR would have to deposit the fee collected from each pheasant hunting license into the pheasant subaccount. Money within the subaccount would have to be spent, upon appropriation, only for *the costs associated with the purchase and release of live pheasants on suitable State-owned land.*

(Section 43541 allows a person authorized by the DNR to issue licenses to retain 7.5% of the fee for each sportscard, license, duplicate license, application, or permit that the person sells. Section 43555 generally requires \$0.35 from each license and stamp fee under Part 435 to be transmitted to the DNR for deposit into the Wildlife Resource Protection Fund. Money in the Fund must be spent by the DNR for the following purposes:

- Rewards for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of poachers and people who obstruct or interfere in the lawful taking of animal or aquatic species, including a \$5,000 reward if the unlawful taking of an animal or an aquatic species involved killing a person who was engaged in lawfully taking an animal or aquatic species.
- Hiring conservation officers for the investigation of poaching and the investigation of tips regarding potential poaching.
- Promotional and education campaign to inform the general public on the harm and danger of poaching, the reward for information that leads to the arrest and prosecution of poachers and people who obstruct or interfere in the lawful taking of animals or aquatic

-- species, other antipoaching programs undertaken by the DNR, and how to identify and report people who obstruct or interfere in the lawful taking of animals or aquatic species.)

MCL 324.43525c

Legislative Analyst: Dana Adams

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have a negative fiscal impact on the DNR and no fiscal impact on local units of government. The bill would amend the Act by modifying the pheasant subaccount allocation of funds and by broadening the purposes for which the revenue could be used. The funding source for the subaccount would be the \$25 pheasant hunting license fee, which is set to begin on March 24, 2021. The law will require 100% of the revenue collected to be sent to the subaccount, but the bill would bring this hunting license into alignment with how other hunting fees are administered. The bill essentially would allow 7.5% of the fee to be retained by a person authorized to issue the license and would require \$0.35 per license to be deposited into the Wildlife Resource Protection Fund. The exact amount of the decreased revenue to the Department would depend on the number of licenses issued, which currently is unknown.

Fiscal Analyst: Ben Dawson

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.