

Legislative Analysis



TIMELINE FOR POSTING REVISIONS TO HUNTING AND FISHING REGULATIONS

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House Bill 4029 (H-1) as reported from committee
Sponsor: Rep. Bradley Slagh
Committee: Natural Resources and Tourism
Complete to 4-30-25

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

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4029 would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) to set a calendar date cutoff for when the Natural Resources Commission may issue orders relating to hunting, fishing, and trapping and have them take effect in the same year.

Under the bill, an order issued on or after June 1 of a given year would not take effect until the next calendar year's hunting or trapping season. The bill also would require the DNR to publish its annual hunting, fishing, and trapping guides and make printed copies available no later than August 15.

MCL 324.40113 and 324.41103a

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

According to the committee testimony, the bill is intended to ensure that all hunters and trappers are aware of the current regulations governing their conduct during their respective seasons by setting a deadline for regulations to be issued or updated before their season begins. While the DNR voiced concerns about being able to implement the provisions of the bill as introduced, subsequent changes made in the H-1 substitute modified the dates for when regulations had to be finalized so that the department would have sufficient time between that deadline and the deadline to print the annual hunting, fishing, and trapping guides.

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4029 may increase costs for the Department of Natural Resources by requiring the department to publish the annual hunting, fishing, and trapping guides with printed copies by August 15 annually. The extent of this potential cost increase is unclear at present, but not likely to be significant, as DNR already has the necessary infrastructure in place to issue publications and make printed copies publicly available. The bill is not likely to affect department revenues or local government costs or revenues. The Department of Natural Resources FY 2024-25 funding totals \$534.6 million Gross (\$76.8 million GF/GP) and 2,545.3 FTE positions.

POSITIONS:

Representatives of the Department of Natural Resources testified with no position on the bill as introduced. (4-16-25)

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