

Legislative Analysis



PROVIDE VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS TO RESIDENT HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE APPLICANTS

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House Bill 4136 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Brad Paquette
Committee: Election Integrity
Complete to 4-14-25

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

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4136 would amend Part 435 (Hunting and Fishing Licensing) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) to allow the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to offer voter registration applications to individuals who apply for a *resident* hunting, fur harvester's, or fishing license.

For purposes of Part 435, *resident* means any of the following:

- An individual who resides in a settled or permanent home or domicile in Michigan with the intention of remaining in the state.
- A full-time student enrolled at a college or university in Michigan who resides in the state during the school year.
- A person serving in the United States military who is officially stationed in Michigan.
- A person serving in the United States military who was a Michigan resident when they enlisted and have maintained their Michigan residence for purposes of obtaining a driver's license or voter registration.

Specifically, the bill would require the secretary of state (SOS) to provide voter registration applications to the DNR and to agents designated by the DNR to issue resident hunting, fur harvester's, or fishing licenses. The DNR and designated agents would have to display the voter registration applications and make them available to the public. The DNR or a designated agent could ask an applicant for a resident license if they would like a voter registration application, but could not assist them in completing the application.

In addition, the DNR would have to provide all who apply online for a resident hunting, fur harvester's, or fishing license with a link to the SOS voter registration website.

Finally, the DNR and its designated license agents would not be designated voter registration agencies under the Michigan Election Law and could not perform voter registration activities, including accepting complete or incomplete voter registration applications.

Proposed MCL 324.43540g

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4136 may increase costs for the Department of Natural Resources by requiring the department to display and make available voter registration applications provided to DNR by the Department of State. 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 provide and collect applications. 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.

There would be minimal costs to the Department of State for providing printed voter registration applications to the Department of Natural Resources.

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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.