

FY 2025-26 NATURAL RESOURCES BUDGET

S.B. 172 (S-1): SENATE APPROPRIATIONS REC.

(as reported)

Committee: Appropriations



Throughout this document Senate means Committee Recommendation

FULL-TIME EQUATED (FTE) CLASSIFIED POSITIONS/FUNDING SOURCE	FY 2024-25 YEAR-TO-DATE*	FY 2025-26 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS REC.	CHANGES FROM FY 2024-25 YEAR-TO-DATE	
			AMOUNT	PERCENT
FTE Positions	2,539.3	2,569.2	29.9	1.2
GROSS	534,579,800	636,327,000	101,747,200	19.0
Less:				
Interdepartmental Grants Received	207,000	208,100	1,100	0.5
ADJUSTED GROSS	534,372,800	636,118,900	101,746,100	19.0
Less:				
Federal Funds	96,140,700	100,214,800	4,074,100	4.2
Local and Private	7,609,200	7,609,200	0	0.0
TOTAL STATE SPENDING	430,622,900	528,294,900	97,672,000	22.7
Less:				
Other State Restricted Funds	353,865,900	446,485,300	92,619,400	26.2
GENERAL FUND/GENERAL PURPOSE	76,757,000	81,809,600	5,052,600	6.6
PAYMENTS TO LOCALS	14,253,000	23,160,200	8,907,200	62.5

*As of February 5, 2025.

Major Boilerplate Changes from FY 2024-25 Year-to-Date:

- 1. Deleted** – The Senate’s recommendation deleted the following sections from current-year boilerplate sections: 1201-1206 (One-Time Removal).
- 2. Modified** – The Senate’s recommendation modified the following sections: 206 (Buy American/Buy Michigan), 230 (Transparency Language), and 232 (State Fiscal Recovery Fund Lapse Notice).
- 3. NEW Sections** – The Senate’s recommendation included **NEW** boilerplate in the following sections: 220 (Report Accessibility and Posting), 223 (General Fund Restrictions), 233 (Unenforceable Boilerplate), 234 (State Impact of Federal Policy Changes), and 235 (Game and Fish Protection Account Deposit).

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FY 2024-25 Year-to-Date Appropriation		\$534,579,800	\$76,757,000		
		CHANGE FROM FY 2024-25 Y-T-D		FY 2025-26 RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATION	
		Gross	GF/GP	Gross	GF/GP
<u>Baseline Adjustments</u>					
1. Capital Outlay – Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Trail Development and Maintenance. The Senate proposed \$4.0 million State Restricted authorization for ORV trail development and maintenance and local grants according to the statutory distribution formula for the Off-Road Vehicle fund.		3,965,900	0	N/A	N/A
2. Capital Outlay – State Game and Wildlife Area Infrastructure. The Senate proposed \$1.5 million Gross funding for special maintenance improvements in state game areas to protect and restore wildlife.		1,500,000	0	3,300,000	0
3. High-Speed Internet Infrastructure Easements. The Senate proposed \$1.4 million ongoing Federal spending authorization to acquire easements for the installation of high-speed internet infrastructure over a 5-year period.		1,417,500	0	N/A	N/A
4. Capital Outlay – State Parks Repair and Maintenance. The Senate proposed \$1.2 million ongoing State Restricted authorization to align estimates of Recreation Passport revenues with infrastructure expenditures. This includes renovations and upgrades at State Parks and DNR facilities.		1,150,000	0	30,267,900	1,500,000
5. CSB Technical. The Senate proposed a \$763,600 Gross funding increase for CSB technical adjustments.		763,600	0	N/A	N/A
6. Capital Outlay – Local Boating Infrastructure, Maintenance, and Improvement. The Senate proposed a negative \$100,000 State Restricted authorization adjustment for updated revenue estimates. This grant-in-aid (GIA) program assists local communities to improve and sustain their boating facilities.		(100,000)	0	4,450,000	0
7. Capital Outlay – State Boating Infrastructure Maintenance. The Senate proposed a \$232,600 Gross authorization decrease for updated Federal and State revenue estimates. This program funds infrastructure improvements at 19 state harbors and over 1,000 state boating access sites operated by the DNR.		(232,600)	0	10,517,400	0
8. Capital Outlay – Wetland Restoration, Enhancement, and Acquisition. The Senate proposed a negative \$1.0 million State		(1,000,000)	0	2,230,000	2,000,000

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	CHANGE FROM FY 2024-25 Y-T-D		FY 2025-26 RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATION	
	Gross	GF/GP	Gross	GF/GP
Restricted authorization alignment to account for updated revenue estimates. The funding acquires wetland/waterfowl property throughout the state and maintenance, enhancement, and restoration projects for existing wetland areas.				
9. Nature Awaits Bus Grants. The Senate proposed a negative \$1.8 million ongoing GF/GP adjustment to move the Nature Awaits busing program from DNR to the School Aid budget. The fund shift between the two budgets nets to \$0.	(1,800,000)	(1,800,000)	2,257,100	2,257,100
10. Economic Adjustments. Includes <u>\$4,913,800</u> Gross and <u>\$852,400</u> GF/GP for total economic adjustments.	4,913,800	852,400	N/A	N/A
<u>New Programs/Program Increases</u>				
11. Recreation Passport Base Expansion and Fee Reduction. The Senate proposed a \$43.5 million State Restricted authorization increase across the department to account for a proposal that includes reducing the recreation passport fee to \$10 and charging it on all eligible vehicle registrations.	43,520,500	0	N/A	N/A
12. Hunting and Fishing License Fee Proposal and Investment. The Senate proposed a \$28.8 million State Restricted authorization increase and 19.0 FTEs across the department to account for anticipated revenues related to increased hunting and fishing license fees that have been proposed.	28,827,000	0	N/A	N/A
13. Boating Fee Proposal. The Senate proposed a \$12.0 million State Restricted authorization increase across the department to account for anticipated revenues related to a proposal that increases boating fees.	11,960,000	0	N/A	N/A
14. Federal Shooting Range Operations and Maintenance. The Senate proposed \$481,300 Federal spending authorization to support 7.5 FTEs in the Marketing and Outreach line item in projects relating to shooting range operations and maintenance.	481,300	0	N/A	N/A
15. Employee Recruitment and Retention. The Senate proposed \$355,000 State Restricted authorization to support 3.4 FTEs within the Parks and Recreation Division with a focus on recruiting and retaining DNR employees.	355,000	0	N/A	N/A

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	CHANGE FROM FY 2024-25 Y-T-D		FY 2025-26 RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATION	
	Gross	GF/GP	Gross	GF/GP
16. Pheasant Release Program. The Senate proposed an additional \$25,000 State Restricted authorization for ongoing support for the Pheasant Release Program.	25,000	0	75,000	0
<u>Eliminations/Reductions - NONE</u>				
<u>One-Time Appropriations</u>				
17. Capital Outlay – Dam Safety, Management, and Removal. The Senate proposed \$15.0 million One-Time GF/GP to fund the removal, maintenance, and engineering studies for the 200+ dams under the DNR’s control.	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000
18. Elberta Waterfront Community Conservation Project. The Senate proposed a \$100 One-Time GF/GP placeholder for a “Beach to Beach” connection from Frankfort to Elberta along the existing Betsie Valley Trail network.	100	100	100	100
19. Extreme Weather Forestry Restoration Activities. The Senate proposed a \$100 One-Time GF/GP placeholder for aiding in the restoration of forests affected by extreme weather events.	100	100	100	100
20. Removal of FY 2024-25 One-Time and Supplemental Appropriations. The Senate removed One-Time and supplemental items from the FY 2024-25 budget. This includes: America 250 Commission Grants (\$5.0 million), Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative’s Border-To-Border Trail (\$1.7 million), Mass Timber Market Development (\$1.0 million), American Chestnut Restoration Initiative (\$500,000), Sportsmen Against Hunger Refrigeration Units (\$500,000), Phragmites management equipment (\$250,000), and Upper Peninsula Ski Jump Project (\$100).	(9,000,000)	(9,000,000)	0	0
<u>Other - NONE</u>				
Total Changes	\$101,747,200	\$5,052,600		
FY 2025-26 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS REC.	\$636,327,000	\$81,809,600		

Date Completed: 5-6-25

Fiscal Analyst: Jonah Houtz

This Analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberation.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES	Gov Changes to FY 2024-25			Senate Changes to FY 2024-25		
	FTE	GROSS	GF/GP	FTE	GROSS	GF/GP
<u>Ongoing Changes</u>						
1 Recreation passport base expansion and fee reduction		\$ -	\$ -		\$ 43,520,500	\$ -
2 Natural resources investments and fee increases	79.3	28,953,300	-		-	-
3 Hunting and fishing license fee proposal and investment		-	-	19.0	28,827,000	-
4 Recreation passport opt-out and resident veteran exemption		17,190,300	-		-	-
5 Boating fee proposal		-	-		11,960,000	-
6 Capital Outlay - Off-road vehicle trail development and maintenance		3,965,900	-		3,965,900	-
7 Capital Outlay - State game and wildlife area infrastructure		1,500,000	-		1,500,000	-
8 High-speed internet infrastructure easements		1,417,500	-		1,417,500	-
9 Capital Outlay - State parks repair and maintenance		1,150,000	-		1,150,000	-
10 CSB technical		763,600	-		763,600	-
11 Federal shooting range operations and maintenance	7.5	481,300	-	7.5	481,300	-
12 Employee recruitment and retention	3.0	355,000	-	3.4	355,000	-
13 Pheasant release program		-	-		25,000	-
14 Capital Outlay - Local boating infrastructure maintenance and improvements		(100,000)	-		(100,000)	-
15 Capital Outlay - State boating infrastructure maintenance		(232,600)	-		(232,600)	-
16 Capital Outlay - Wetland restoration, enhancement, and acquisition		(1,000,000)	-		(1,000,000)	-
17 Nature awaits bus grants		(1,800,000)	(1,800,000)		(1,800,000)	(1,800,000)
18 Unclassified salaries		29,200	-		29,200	-
19 Economic adjustments		4,884,600	852,400		4,884,600	852,400
Subtotal - Ongoing	89.8	57,558,100	(947,600)	29.9	95,747,000	(947,600)
<u>One-Time Changes</u>						
1 Capital Outlay - Dam safety, management, and removal		15,000,000	15,000,000		-	-
2 Enterprise asset management system		6,391,800	6,391,800		-	-
3 Extreme weather forestry restoration activities		-	-		100	100
4 Elberta Waterfront Community Conservation Project		-	-		100	100
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10 Remove FY25 one-time and supplemental appropriations		(9,000,000)	(9,000,000)		(9,000,000)	(9,000,000)
Subtotal - One-Time	0.0	12,391,800	12,391,800	0.0	(8,999,800)	(8,999,800)
TOTAL DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES	89.8	69,949,900	11,444,200	29.9	86,747,200	(9,947,400)