

Legislative Analysis



ELIMINATE SUNSET OF PHEASANT HUNTING LICENSING

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<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4401 as reported from committee

Sponsor: Rep. Jaime Greene

Committee: Natural Resources and Tourism

Complete to 6-3-25

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

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4401 would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to eliminate a sunset (expiration date) for provisions that require an annual license to hunt pheasants and provide parameters for the license. Under current law, those provisions will be repealed on January 1, 2026. The bill would eliminate that repeal.

MCL 324.43525c

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4401 is likely to increase revenue for the Department of Natural Resources by eliminating the sunset on the annual pheasant hunting license. License sales began in 2021, with revenue deposited to the Pheasant Subaccount of the Game And Fish Protection Account. The sale of hunting and fishing licenses generated an estimated \$63.7 million in FY 2023-24, with the majority of this revenue supporting programs in Wildlife Division and Fisheries Division. Revenue from pheasant hunting license sales supports facilities and wildlife habitat on state game and wildlife areas for pheasant hunting. This revenue would no longer be collected if the license fee sunsets as scheduled in statute. The bill is unlikely to affect departmental costs, local government costs, or local government revenues.

POSITIONS:

Representatives of the following entities testified in support of the bill (5-14-25):

- Michigan Pheasant Hunting Initiative
- Michigan United Conservation Clubs

The following entities indicated support for the bill:

- Department of Natural Resources (5-14-25)
- Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (5-14-25)
- Michigan Bear Hunters Association (5-14-25)
- Michigan Hunting Dog Federation (5-14-25)
- U.P. Bear Houndsmen Association (5-14-25)
- Michigan Association of Gamebird Breeders and Hunting Preserves (5-21-25)
- Saginaw Field and Stream Club (5-21-25)

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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.