

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 202

Rep. Rheingans offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution calling on the Michigan Natural Resources
2 Commission to temporarily extend the 2025 open firearm hunting
3 season and set the dates to be November 1, 2025, to November 30,
4 2025.

5 Whereas, The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has
6 established a program called Hunters Feeding Michigan which allows
7 deer hunters to donate venison to participating processors to be
8 distributed to Michigan food banks. One donated deer can provide
9 approximately 160 meals for hungry Michiganders. Currently, Hunters
10 Feeding Michigan is completely funded by private donations; and

11 Whereas, It has been announced that on Saturday, November 1,
12 2025, the United States Department of Agriculture will be pausing
13 the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), a federal
14 program that helps ensure that our most vulnerable citizens stay

1 fed and healthy; and

2 Whereas, The United States Department of Agriculture has
3 deemed that it is legally unable to utilize the emergency
4 contingency funds that have already been appropriated to the
5 department for SNAP. This is a complete deviation from how prior
6 administrations have viewed the availability of contingency funding
7 for SNAP during a government shutdown; and

8 Whereas, Stopping SNAP benefits will have drastic impacts in
9 Michigan and across the entire country. Approximately 1.4 million
10 Michiganders receive SNAP benefits, which includes 492,225 children
11 and 38,513 veterans; and

12 Whereas, Opening firearm hunting season two weeks early will
13 allow processors participating in Hunters Feeding Michigan to have
14 more time to process venison products. Such products can be frozen
15 and stored for later use while the country navigates these
16 unprecedented times; and

17 Whereas, While extending the open firearm season is not the
18 only measure that Michigan can take to make up for the lack of
19 federal funding for SNAP, it is one action that can help our
20 citizens; now, therefore, be it

21 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we call on the
22 Michigan Natural Resources Commission to temporarily extend the
23 2025 open firearm hunting season and set the dates to be November
24 1, 2025, to November 30, 2025; and be it further

25 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
26 Director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the
27 members of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission.