

Legislative Analysis



CREATE BEAR BACKUP HUNTING LICENSE

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4937 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Parker Fairbairn
Committee: Natural Resources and Tourism
Complete to 10-29-25

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

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4937 would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) to create a bear backup hunting license and establish the terms of its use and cost.

The backup license would cost \$50 for Michigan residents and \$250 for nonresidents and could be purchased by the holder of a valid base hunting license. The bear backup hunting license would allow the holder to accompany a licensed bear hunter and shoot a bear that has already been wounded by the licensed hunter. The backup license would be valid for the entire bear season and in all bear management units in Michigan. The holder of the backup license could use it to accompany an unlimited number of hunters, and it could be used an unlimited number of times each bear hunting season.

MCL 324.43528

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4937 is likely to increase revenues for the Department of Natural Resources by establishing a new hunting license for bear backup hunters where no such license currently exists. The extent of this revenue increase is unclear at present and will depend on the number of licenses sold. Revenue collected from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses is deposited to the Game and Fish Protection Account, which primarily supports programs in the department's Wildlife Division and Fisheries Division. This revenue generated an estimated \$63.7 million in revenue in FY 2023-24. The bill is unlikely to directly affect departmental costs as the department already has the necessary infrastructure in place to sell a variety of hunting licenses. The bill is also unlikely to affect local government costs or revenues.

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