



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II
LT. GOVERNOR

October 14, 2022

Michigan House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Representatives,

After hearing from hundreds of avid deer hunters and conservation groups, I am returning Enrolled House Bill 6354 to you without my signature.

As introduced, HB 6354 would have decriminalized failure to report a deer harvest by reducing penalties from a misdemeanor and possible jail time to a civil infraction. My administration supported this bill and called for its passage.

As enrolled, the bill does not mirror its original intent. The bill was amended to limit the ability of the Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Resources Commission ability to collect timely, high-quality information on deer harvests, hindering the state's ability to scientifically manage our deer population and reducing opportunities for the public and Michigan's hunters to participate in decisions around wildlife management.

I look forward to continued conversations on how we can decriminalize the failure to report deer harvests—something only the legislature can do.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gretchen Whitmer".

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor