

Legislative Analysis



MICHIGAN WOODCOCK RECOVERY PLAN

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

House Bill 5631 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. John D. Cherry
Committee: Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation
Complete to 3-17-22

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

SUMMARY:

House Bill 5631 would amend Part 405 (Wildlife Restoration, Management, and Research) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to create a plan to restore populations of American woodcock (*Scolopax minor*). The DNR would have to develop the plan in consultation with the following entities:

- The American Woodcock Society.
- The Ruffed Grouse Society.
- The Michigan United Conservation Clubs.
- The Wildlife Management Institute.
- The DNR's Timber and Forest Products Advisory Council.
- The United States Forest Service.
- The United States Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Other interested persons.

The plan would have to include all of the following:

- Interim and final habitat and population goals for American woodcock and associated species for the entire state and each region of the state, state or national forest management unit, state wildlife area, and state game area.
- Habitat treatments.
- Use of good neighbor authority under federal law on national forest lands.
- Information identifying American woodcock habitat needs and methods to expand habitat and populations on private lands as well as implementation of those methods.
- Any other measures necessary to restore American woodcock populations.

The bill would require the DNR to do all of the following:

- Submit the initial plan to the standing committees of the House and Senate with primary responsibility for natural resources issues by December 31, 2023.
- In consultation with the entities listed above, review the plan every five years and make any necessary updates.
- Submit updated plans to the relevant standing legislative committees.
- On July 1 of every year, submit to the relevant standing legislative committees a report on progress in meeting the goals in the plan.

Proposed MCL 324.40503

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 5631 is likely to increase costs for the Department of Natural Resources by requiring the creation of a departmental plan to restore American woodcock populations. The extent of this cost increase is unclear at present. The bill does not provide funding to support these costs, so costs are likely to be covered by extant appropriations. The department's Forest Resources Division and Wildlife Division may be involved in the creation of the aforementioned plan. Their FY 2021-22 appropriations are \$62.3 million Gross (\$6.8 million GF/GP) and \$46.7 million Gross (\$4.5 million GF/GP), respectively. The department's FY 2021-22 total appropriations are \$464.3 million Gross (\$48.6 million GF/GP). The bill is unlikely to have an impact on DNR revenues, local government costs, or local government revenues.

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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.