

HOUSE BILL NO. 4784

August 21, 2025, Introduced by Reps. Markkanen, Prestin, Bohnak, Fairbairn, Rigas, Borton, BeGole, Outman, Cavitt, Neyer, Beson, Roth, Alexander and Martin and referred to Committee on Natural Resources and Tourism.

A bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled
"Natural resources and environmental protection act,"
by amending sections 40110, 40110a, 40110b, and 40113a (MCL
324.40110, 324.40110a, 324.40110b, and 324.40113a), section 40110
as amended by 2016 PA 382, section 40110a as added by 2010 PA 366,
section 40110b as added by 2012 PA 520, and section 40113a as
amended by 2023 PA 222.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 40110. (1) Only the legislature, **the UP commission**, or

1 the commission may designate a wildlife species as game. Only the
2 legislature, **the UP commission**, or **the** commission may establish the
3 first open season for a game species designated under this section.
4 The legislature retains the sole authority to remove a wildlife
5 species from the list of game species. The **UP commission or the**
6 commission shall exercise its authority under this subsection by
7 issuing orders consistent with its duty to use principles of sound
8 scientific wildlife management, as expressed in section 40113a. The
9 **UP commission or the** commission may decline to issue orders
10 authorizing an open season for a game species if doing so would
11 conflict with principles of sound scientific wildlife management.
12 The **UP commission or the** commission shall not designate any of the
13 following as game under this subsection:

14 (a) A domestic animal.

15 (b) Livestock.

16 (c) Any species added to the game list by a public act that is
17 rejected by a referendum before May 14, 2013.

18 (2) After the legislature, **the UP commission**, or **the**
19 commission authorizes the establishment of the first open season
20 for game under this section, the department may issue orders
21 pertaining to that animal for each of the purposes listed in
22 section 40107.

23 (3) As used in this section:

24 (a) "Domestic animal" means those species of animals that live
25 under the husbandry of humans.

26 (b) "Livestock" includes, but is not limited to, cattle,
27 sheep, new world camelids, goats, bison, privately owned cervids,
28 ratites, swine, equine, poultry, and rabbits. Livestock does not
29 include dogs and cats.

1 Sec. 40110a. The legislature hereby authorizes the
2 establishment of the first open season for moose. The **UP** commission
3 may issue orders pertaining to moose for each of the purposes
4 listed in section 40113a, including, but not limited to, orders
5 establishing the first open season for moose.

6 Sec. 40110b. (1) The legislature finds and declares that:

7 (a) The wildlife populations of ~~the~~**this** state and their
8 habitat are of paramount importance to the citizens of this state.

9 (b) The sound management of wolf populations in this state is
10 necessary, including the use of hunting as a management tool, to
11 minimize negative human and wolf encounters and to prevent wolves
12 from threatening or harming humans, livestock, and pets.

13 (2) The legislature hereby authorizes the establishment of the
14 first open season for wolf. The **UP** commission may issue orders
15 under section 40113a establishing annual wolf hunting seasons
16 ~~throughout the state.~~**in the Upper Peninsula.**

17 Sec. 40113a. (1) The legislature finds and declares that:

18 (a) The fish and wildlife populations of ~~the~~**this** state and
19 their habitat are of paramount importance to the citizens of this
20 state.

21 (b) The conservation of fish and wildlife populations of ~~the~~
22 **this** state depend ~~upon~~**on** the wise use and sound scientific
23 management of ~~the~~**this** state's natural resources.

24 (c) The sound scientific management of the fish and wildlife
25 populations of ~~the~~**this** state, including hunting of bear, is
26 declared to be in the public interest.

27 (d) The sound scientific management of bear populations in
28 this state is necessary to minimize human and bear encounters and
29 to prevent bears from threatening or harming humans, livestock, and

1 pets.

2 (2) ~~The~~ **Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the**
3 commission has the exclusive authority to regulate the taking of
4 ~~game as that term is defined in section 40103~~ and to regulate sport
5 fishing under part 487 in this state, including, but not limited
6 to, regulating the use of commercial hunting guides or sport
7 fishing guides in taking game and fish. **The UP commission has the**
8 **exclusive authority to regulate the taking of game that has an**
9 **impact only on the Upper Peninsula or that has no significant**
10 **impact outside the Upper Peninsula.** The UP commission or the
11 commission shall, to the greatest extent practicable, utilize
12 principles of sound scientific management in making decisions
13 regarding the taking of game. The **UP commission or the** commission
14 may take testimony from department personnel, independent experts,
15 and others, and review scientific literature and data, among other
16 sources, in support of its duty to use principles of sound
17 scientific management. The **UP commission or the** commission shall
18 issue orders regarding the taking of game following a public
19 meeting and an opportunity for public input. Not less than 30 days
20 before issuing an order, the **UP commission or the** commission shall
21 provide a copy of the order to each of the following:

22 (a) Each member of each standing committee of the senate or
23 house of representatives that considers legislation pertaining to
24 conservation, the environment, natural resources, recreation,
25 tourism, or agriculture.

26 (b) The chairperson of the senate appropriations committee and
27 the chairperson of the house of representatives appropriations
28 committee.

29 (c) The members of the subcommittee of the senate

1 appropriations committee and the subcommittee of the house of
2 representatives appropriations committee that consider the budget
3 of the department of natural resources.

4 (3) The legislature declares that hunting, fishing, and the
5 taking of game are a valued part of the cultural heritage of this
6 state and should be forever preserved. The legislature further
7 declares that these activities play an important part in the
8 state's economy and in the conservation, preservation, and
9 management of ~~the~~**this** state's natural resources. Therefore, the
10 legislature declares that the citizens of this state have a right
11 to hunt, fish, and take game, subject to the regulations and
12 restrictions prescribed by subsection (2) and law.

13 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect
14 unless all of the following bills of the 103rd Legislature are
15 enacted into law:

16 (a) House Bill No. 4785 (request no. H00575'25).

17 (b) House Bill No. 4786 (request no. H00577'25).

18 (c) House Bill No. 4783 (request no. H00578'25).