



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



DANIEL EICHINGER
DIRECTOR

September 19, 2022

The Honorable Mike Mueller

Dear Chairman Mueller:

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) would like to see the failure to report a harvested deer changed from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction. This change is consistent with other recent Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) penalty changes that were passed earlier this year and the decriminalization of failing to report a deer harvest will also streamline enforcement across the board.

As you know, the Natural Resources Commission recently added regulations for mandatory deer harvest reporting to the Wildlife Conservation Order (WCO) in effect for the 2022 deer hunting season. Penalties for WCO are set in NREPA, and for deer harvest reporting, section 40118 applies, making a related violation a misdemeanor. House Bill 6354, as introduced and referred to the House Government Operation Committee, would amend section 40118 of NREPA to reduce the penalty of a person who does not report a deer harvest within 72 hours or retain the deer harvest confirmation number. In this case, the penalty would be reduced from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction, where a violator may be ordered to pay a civil fine of not more than \$150.00.

As such, I urge the House Government Operations Committee to report HB 6354 as soon as possible to make these changes ahead of the 2022 archery and firearm deer seasons. While in the first year of this new regulation our officers will be focusing on education over enforcement, this will set the stage for enforcement into the future.

Sincerely,

Dan Eichinger
Director
517-284-6367

cc: Representative Jason Wentworth, Speaker of the House
Representative Greg VanWoerkom
Representative John Cherry
Representative Roger Hauck
Representative Yousef Rabhi