

2ND FIREARM DEER LICENSE



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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House Bill 5661 as introduced
Revised First Analysis (4-10-90)

Sponsor: Rep. Jerry C. Bartnik
Committee: Tourism, Fisheries & Wildlife

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

Public Act 256 of 1988 created the Wildlife Conservation Act to recodify current game laws and allow the Natural Resources Commission to manage the taking of animals by issuance of orders. Flexibility in establishing taking provisions is said to be needed because animal populations vary so much. For instance, the deer herd in certain counties is enormous, but in other counties deer are very scarce, so it is not advisable to allow hunters to harvest more than one deer per season. The Hunting and Fishing License Act contains provisions that designate how many deer may be taken and in what manner. These provisions conflict with the management policy established in the Wildlife Conservation Act. In 1989, the act was amended to provide the commission with more flexibility to regulate the deer herd by specifying that a second deer could be taken by bow and arrow in the Upper Peninsula when authorized by the commission. It is now suggested that the Hunting and Fishing License Act be amended to provide consistency with provisions in the Wildlife Conservation Act in regards to the taking of deer under a second firearm deer license.

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THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The bill would amend the Hunting and Fishing License Act to specify that the Natural Resources Commission could designate the kind of deer which may be taken and could limit the issuance of a second firearm deer license in areas it considered advisable in managing deer. MCL 316.308

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

According to the Department of Natural Resources, the bill has no significant revenue implications for the state. (4-9-90)

ARGUMENTS:

For:

Currently, the Natural Resources Commission does not have the flexibility to determine the method, manner and species of animal to be taken under the Hunting and Fishing License Act. Flexibility is needed when establishing hunting rules and regulations because animal populations, such as deer populations, vary greatly. The bill would address this issue and provide for better population management by specifying that the commission is granted the authorization to regulate the taking of a second deer by firearm.

POSITIONS:

The Michigan United Conservation Clubs supports the bill. (4-9-90)

The Department of Natural Resources supports the bill. (4-9-90)