

# Legislative Analysis



## SEVEN-DAY SENIOR DEER LICENSE

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<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

**House Bill 5740 as introduced**

**Sponsor: Rep. Gary R. Eisen**

**Committee: Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation**

**Complete to 5-18-22**

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

### SUMMARY:

House Bill 5740 would amend Part 435 (Hunting and Fishing Licensing) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow a Michigan resident who is at least 65 years old to obtain a seven-day senior deer license under certain circumstances.

Currently under the act, a Michigan resident who is at least 65 years old may obtain a senior base license, deer license, wild turkey hunting license, or fur harvester's license for a fee that is discounted 60% from the fee for the respective resident license.

The bill would add that, beginning March 1, 2022, a Michigan resident who is at least 65 years old can obtain a seven-day senior deer license for \$12. The license would be valid for taking an antlered or antlerless deer for any seven-day period from October 1 to November 1 with a firearm on private land only. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) could issue a kill tag with or as part of each license. The kill tag would have to bear the license number and could also include space for other pertinent information required by the DNR. The kill tag, if issued, would be part of the license.

MCL 324.43535

### FISCAL IMPACT:

It is unclear what impact House Bill 5740 would have on revenues for the Department of Natural Resources. An increase or decrease in revenue would be driven by the number of seven-day deer licenses sold to hunters 65 years of age or older. The establishment of a new hunting license would increase revenues if it results license sales beyond that which would have resulted under the extant license structure. Revenues may decrease if the new structure results in forgone revenue that would have been captured previously. The sale of all hunting and fishing licenses generated an estimated \$66.2 million in FY 2020-21 revenue, which DNR uses primarily to support programs in wildlife and fisheries. In the current fiscal year, \$83.4 million is appropriated from the Game & Fish Protection Fund/sub-funds in the DNR budget. Appropriations in the department's Wildlife and Fisheries Divisions total \$46.7 million Gross (\$4.5 million GF/GP) and \$32.9 million Gross (\$541,700 GF/GP), respectively, in the current fiscal year.

The bill is unlikely to significantly increase departmental costs because an established license sales infrastructure is already in place. The bill is also unlikely to affect local government revenues or costs.

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