Legislative Analysis

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GREAT LAKES PROTECTION SPECIALTY WATERCRAFT DECAL SALES

House Bill 5308 (H-1) as reported from committee
Sponsor: Rep. Ken Borton
Committee: Natural Resources and Tourism
Complete to 4-29-26

SUMMARY:

House Bill 5308 would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) to remove a provision that currently ends authorization for the sale of Great Lakes Protection Specialty Watercraft decals if fewer than 500 decals sell in a fiscal year.

The bill would take effect one year after its enactment.

MCL 324.80124a

BRIEF DISCUSSION:

According to testimony presented in committee, the intent of the bill is to bring back a program that was originally created in 2003 but discontinued after sales of the decals failed to meet the statutory threshold necessary for the program to continue. The bill sponsor would like to reauthorize the program by removing the 500-decal annual threshold as a way for boat owners to voluntarily support efforts to combat the adverse effects of invasive species and support the Michigan Great Lakes Protection Fund (which would receive $25 of each sticker's sale price).

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 5308 is likely to increase revenue for the Department of Natural Resources by providing a renewed revenue stream to address aquatic invasive species. The extent of this revenue increase is unclear at present and will hinge on the number of decals sold. Invasive species prevention and control is funded by $5.9 million GF/GP in FY 2025-26; annual funding has met or exceeded $5.0 million GF/GP for more than a decade. The bill is not likely to affect DNR costs, local government revenues, or local government costs.

In addition, the bill would result in a nominal increase in revenue to the Department of State from receiving $10 from the sale of each $35 decal. The fee would cover the cost to the Department of State for creating and administering distribution of the decal.

POSITIONS:

A representative of the Michigan Waterfront Alliance testified in support of the bill. (3-11-26)

The Department of State indicated opposition to the bill. (3-11-26)

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