



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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LT. GOVERNOR

October 15, 2020

Michigan House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Representatives,

Today I am returning Enrolled House Bill ~~4322~~⁴³³² to you without my approval.

Michigan has a long heritage of hunting and wildlife conservation. With Fall upon us, I hope that hunting season will provide a fruitful and fulfilling pastime for those wishing to enjoy the outdoors. However, personal safety and the stewardship of Michigan's natural bounty are also important considerations.

This bill would create an unworkable permitting system within the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Rather than providing a predictable and uniform standard for hunters with a disability, this bill depends on a subjective evaluation of physical fitness lacking sufficient standards to implement the permitting process. Furthermore, this bill does not account for the conservation and rehabilitation efforts that would be required as a result of more vehicle traffic on hunting roads and trails.

The DNR Accessibility Advisory Council provides guidance to the DNR to help develop, manage, and plan opportunities for those of all abilities to enjoy Michigan's natural resources. Unfortunately, this legislation was developed without consultation with the Council, excluding valuable voices from the hunting community with disabilities. Future legislation should be developed cooperatively with the Council.

For the foregoing reasons, I am vetoing this bill.

Respectfully,

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor