

NORTH DAKOTA
SPORTSMANSHIP
CONGRESS
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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

February 7, 2009

Duaine has been doing a great job of keeping track of what's coming down the track in the Legislature. Your feedback is vital to his ability to accurately represent the Congress and his use of your feedback give significant weight to his testimony, particularly on HB 1248 and SB 2424. Be sure to check your email every few days and give me or Duaine your feedback. Share with your clubs, members and friends. You can check on individual bills at www.legis.nd.gov/information/news.

HOUSE BILLS

HB1188: Exploitation of Wildlife: this bill provides significant penalties for G&F violations including suspension of privileges. Primary focused on Hunting issues it does include fishing in the language. NDSFC and Game and Fish are neutral on this bill at this time. It was given a "do pass" with an 11/0 vote in Committee and passed the House 92/2. it has been sent to the Senate.

****HB1248:** this was the bill proposing allowing 4 lines per fisherman for shore fishing. It got significant press on the AP wire. All responding clubs and fishermen were opposed as was the Game and Fish Department. Duaine was able to utilize your feedback in his testimony in Committee. Partially due to that testimony the Committee voted "do not pass" 11/1 and it was defeated in the House 7/81. Congratulations.

****HB 1379:** this is a continuation of the past discussion about a marina at New Town. This proposes a two phase appropriation. First for \$300,00 from the General Fund through Department of Commerce for a feasibility study on Marina. Secondly \$1,700,000 of General Fund money through Game and Fish for a road and ramp near the Marina on Arrowhead Point. We have been assured that there is no intent to use Game and Fish money for any part of this project. We are still concerned about using Game and Fish for a road project and are watching the progress of this bill closely. It was given a "do not pass" recommendation by the Committee on 2/6 and has been sent to the House.

HB 1470: this is a bill to provide laws and penalties against operating a motorboat, hunting or operating a snowmobile while under the influence of alcohol as defined by 0.08% by weight. We have opposed this bill in the past due to concerns about how an operators vessel would be protected if they were arrested while operating. We have been ensured by Game and Fish Law Enforcement that in the event of an arrest the Game and Fish has the responsibility to ensure that the vessel is properly protected from damage while the operator is otherwise indisposed. We are at present neutral. It was read and referred to Transportation for comment. It has been scheduled for hearing in Committee on 2/12.

SENATE BILLS

****SB2068:** this is the bill requiring a separate distinguishing number on all G&F licenses that is not, nor is related to, the individuals Social Security Number. NDSFC came out in favor of this bill with the stipulation that it meets with a feasible method of implementation through Game and Fish. It was introduced, hearing was on 1/15. It was referred to Game and Fish and Human Services for discussion and recommendation and has been placed on the Senate Calendar with a "do not pass" vote of 4-3. It failed to pass in the Senate 13/33.

SB2146: this is a housekeeping bill transferring money from highway tax distribution to motorboat and safety accounts.

SB2189: this is a bill to allow children under 18 to have free game and fish licenses and to allow the Game and Fish to increase license fee to offset the loss of revenue. NDSFC is neutral on this bill at this time. This was given a "do not pass" by Committee at 4/3 and failed to pass the Senate 9/37.

****SB2424:** this bill proposes to require Game and Fish and the State Water Commission to pay all costs for any water project feature built or required to control Aquatic Nuisance Species. Game and Fish is opposed to this bill, especially considering its potential large price tag. The State Water Commission is also opposed. Feedback from members and clubs so far has been unanimously opposed to this bill. Duaine's testimony using your feedback was powerful. This bill received a "do not pass" recommendation from Committee of 7/0. Good Job!

SB2305: this bill is for an appropriation for a feasibility study for an embankment at Beaver Bay south of Bismarck. This has been introduced and was heard on 1/30. No Committee recommendation at this time. Voices is in favor and Duaine has looked at this site and NDSFC has supported this in the past. Presently NDSFC is in support. The Hearing was scheduled for 2/5. Rumor has it it received a "do not pass" but there isn't anything on the web yet.

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Clark Williams, President
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