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## **Senate Approves More Funding For Conservation Officers**

### ***Bill Would Update Hunting and Fishing Licenses For First Time In 17 Years***

LANSING --- The Michigan Senate passed a bill that would update Michigan's hunting and fishing licenses and raise funds to hire 40 additional conservation officers across the state today. The legislation would put more boots on the ground to protect our state's natural resources, keep fisheries healthy and forests well-maintained.

"Michigan's conservation officers put the natural resources protections we push for in Lansing into action across our state's millions of acres of wooded forest and thousands of miles of waterways," said Jack Schmitt, Political Director for Michigan LCV. "An investment in their work is an investment in Michigan's standing as a world-class destination for outdoor recreation. We commend the legislature for moving forward with this much-needed update."

As of Wednesday morning, the bill was caught up in budget politics and a deadlock vote, but Michigan LCV kept the pressure on key legislators to change their vote in favor of good policy, not politics as usual. The bill designates that funding for additional conservation officers will come from long-overdue updates to Michigan's hunting and fishing license structure, which has not been adjusted since 1996. This legislation would streamline the variety of hunting and fishing licenses available, and maintain discounts for seniors and veterans.

"Simplifying Michigan's license structure and using revenue to pay for additional conservation officers is a major win for our state's hunters and anglers," said Schmitt. "Today's vote puts our state's land and water first. It's a testament to our great sportsmen heritage and allows Michiganders to carry that on to generations down the line."

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*Michigan League of Conservation Voters is Michigan's non-partisan political voice for land, air and water. Visit our website: <http://www.michiganlcv.org>.*