

Activity since
February
Tracker



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The Regulatory Tracker™ highlights actions from federal agencies having significant impact on animal welfare, to encourage advocates to submit Public Comments.

MICHIGAN - 102nd Legislative Session (2023-2024) to March 30, 2023

Bill #	Description	Actions	AFA Action	Notes
SB 0014	Amends Administrative Procedures Act to eliminate prohibition on state regulations being more stringent than federal; Sen. McCann + 13 co-sponsors	1/17/2023 introduced, referred to Energy and Environment (sponsor is Chair, co-sponsors on committee)	Support	
SB 0017	Increases days that local governments can regulate fireworks; increases penalties; Sen. Wojno + 10 co-sponsors	1/17/2023 introduced, referred to Local Government; sponsor is Majority Vice Chair, co-sponsor is Chair, 2 co-sponsors on committee	Support	Impact on birds, https://www.treehugger.com/fireworks-have-long-lasting-impact-on-wild-birds-7089635 ; other wildlife, https://benitolink.com/fireworks-can-have-devastating-effects-on-wildlife/ ; and companion animals

SB 46	Reduce penalties for failing to report deer; Sen. Hoitenga + 7 co-sponsors	2/1/2023 introduced, referred to Natural Resources and Agriculture; sponsor on committee	In review	See SB 52 Introduced in past 2 sessions, AFA opposed
HB 4067	Care for Retired Police Dogs Program Act establishes program to be administered by nonprofits; Rep. Paiz + 14 co-sponsors (bipartisan)	2/2/2023 introduced, referred to Criminal Justice, 1 co-sponsor is Chair, 2 serve on committee	In review	
SB 52	Response to SB 46; Sen. Cherry + 5 co-sponsors (bi-partisan)	2/2/2023 introduced, referred to Natural Resources and Agriculture; 3/8 reported favorably, without amendment; 3/15 PASSED 35 - 2; 1 EXCUSED. House: 3/15 received in House, referred to Natural Resources	In review	See SB 46
HB 4102	Requires DNR to establish wolf population in Lower Peninsula no later than June 1, 2025; Rep. Markannen	2/15/2023 introduced, referred to Natural Resources	In review	See article
HCR 2	Resolution calling on DNR, federal government to re-establish wolf population in the Lower Peninsula; Rep. Markannen + 2 co-sponsors	2/15/2023 introduced, referred to Natural Resources	In review	tie-barred with HB 4102
HB 4135	Prohibits NRC from issuing order requiring hunters to report harvest of game; Rep. Friske + 2 co-sponsors	2/22/23 introduced, referred to Natural Resources	In review	

SB 103, 104, 105	Would regulate sport fishing guides, commercial hunting guides; give NRC exclusive authority to regulate sport fishing. Sen. Cherry + 2 co-sponsors (bipartisan)	3/1/2023 introduced, referred to Natural Resources and Agriculture	Support; AFA supported last session HBs 4858, 59, 60 and testified in support at committee hearings	
SB 148, 149 /HB 4277, 4278	Teddy's Law would require animal research facilities to provide records to MDARD; release dogs and cats to MI shelters for adoption once research completed; ; Sen. Polehanki + 9 co-sponsors; 149 Sen. Hertel + 10 co-sponsors	3/7/2023 introduced, referred to Natural Resources and Agriculture	Support; AFA supported last session HB 4881, 82 and testified in support at committee hearings http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2021-HB-4881	HB 4277, 4278

FEDERAL - 118th Congress (2023-2024) to March 30, 2023

Bill #	Description	Actions	AFA Action	Notes
H.R. 200	“FIR Act” would specify neither Agriculture nor Interior Departments may be required to reinitiate consultation on land management plan when a species is listed as threatened or endangered, critical habitat is designated, or new information becomes available; Rep. Rosendale (R-MT)	1/9/2023 introduced, referred to: Agriculture, Natural Resources; 2/13 referred to Agriculture Subcommittee on Forestry; 2/21 referred to Natural Resources Subcommittees on Water, Wildlife, Fisheries and Federal Lands; 3/23, Subcommittee on Federal Lands hearings held	In review	1 co-sponsor (none MI); 1-R

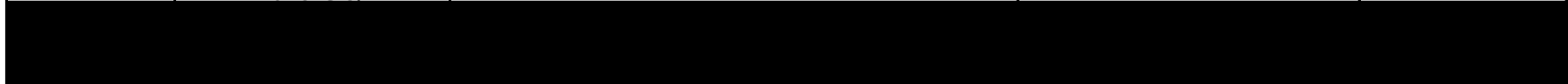
<p>H.R. 208</p>	<p>Pet Safety and Protection Act would amend AWA to ensure that all dogs and cats used by research facilities are obtained legally; Rep. Smith (R-NJ) + 3 original co-sponsors</p>	<p>1/9/2023 introduced, referred to Agriculture</p>	<p>Support; see HR 3157 last session, AFA supported</p>	<p>21 co-sponsors including Rep. Slotkin; 16-D; 5-R</p>
<p>H.R. 598</p>	<p>Earth Act to Stop Climate Pollution by 2030 would ensure 100% renewable electricity, zero emission vehicles, and regenerative agriculture by 2030 to address global warming caused by human activity; Rep. Espailla (D-NY) + 4 original co-sponsors</p>	<p>1/27/2013 introduced, referred to: Agriculture, Ways and Means, and Energy and Commerce; 2/23 referred to Agriculture Subcommittees on Conservation, Research, and Biotechnology and on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry</p>	<p>In review</p>	<p>5 Co-sponsors (none MI); 5-D</p>
<p>H.R. 726</p>	<p>Vets for Mustangs would require sterilization program for wild horses and burros and programs to include veterans in range management; Lisa McClain (R-MI) + 13 original co-sponsors</p>	<p>2/1/2023 introduced, referred to Natural Resources; 2/21 referred to Subcommittee on Federal Lands</p>	<p>In review</p>	<p>20 co-sponsors including Rep. Moolenaar; 11-D; 9-R Sponsor Press Release</p>
<p>H.R. 764</p>	<p>Trust the Science Act would de-list wolves with no judicial review allowed; Rep. Boebert (R-CO) + 22 original co-sponsors</p>	<p>2/2/2023 introduced, referred to Natural Resources; 2/21 referred to Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries; 3/23 Subcommittee hearings held</p>	<p>Oppose; H.R. 764, H.R. 1245, and H.R. 1419, AFA opposed H.R. 7766 last session</p>	<p>24 co-sponsors including Reps. Bergman, Moolenaar; 24-R</p>

<p>S. 270/H.R. 798</p>	<p>Protecting America's Meatpacking Workers Act would expand protections, ensure safer line speeds and inspections, require OSHA standards to prevent occupational injuries and exposure to COVID-19, and end policies that punish workers for getting sick; Sen. Booker (D-NJ) + 5 original co-sponsors. <i>House: Rep. Khanna (D-CA) + 5 original co-sponsors</i></p>	<p>2/2/2023 introduced, referred to Agriculture. House: 2/2/2023 introduced, referred to: Agriculture, Education and the Workforce, Oversight and Accountability, House Administration, and Judiciary; 2/21 referred to Agriculture Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry Another article</p>	<p>In review</p>	<p>5 co-sponsors (none MI); 4-D; 1-I H.R. 798 5 co-sponsors (none MI); 5-D</p>
<p>S. 271/H.R. 797</p>	<p>Farm System Reform Act would place moratorium on large concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs); Sen. Booker (D-NJ) + 32 original co-sponsors. <i>House: Rep. Khanna + 18 original co-sponsors</i></p>	<p>2/2/2023 introduced, referred to Agriculture <i>House: 2/2/2023 introduced, referred to: Agriculture, Transportation and Infrastructure; 2/3 referred to Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment; 3/6 referred to Agriculture Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry</i></p>	<p>Support; introduced last 2 sessions, AFA supported both, see S. 2332 last session</p>	<p>4 co-sponsors (none MI); 3-D; 1-I H.R. 797 22 co-sponsors (none MI); 22-D</p>
<p>S. 272/H.R. 805</p>	<p>Industrial Agriculture Accountability Act would establish Agriculture Department Office of High-Risk Disaster Mitigation and Enforcement; Sen. Booker (D-NJ) + 2 original co-sponsors. <i>House: Rep. McGovern (D-MA) + 6 original co-sponsors</i></p>	<p>2/2/2023 introduced, referred to Agriculture. <i>House 2/2/2023 introduced, referred to: Agriculture, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Education and the Workforce; 2/3 referred to Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management; 3/6 referred to Agriculture Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry</i></p>	<p>In review; Note: introduced last session, AFA supported Sponsor Press Release re bill package</p>	<p>2 co-sponsors (none MI); 2-D H.R. 805 8 co-sponsors (none MI); 8-D</p>

<p>S. 445</p>	<p>Grizzly Bear State Management Act would direct Interior Department to remove <u>Greater Yellowstone ecosystem population</u> of grizzly bears from list of endangered and threatened wildlife, and rule not subject to judicial review. Sen. Lummis (R-WY) + 4 original co-sponsors</p>	<p>2/15/2023 introduced, referred to Environment and Public Works</p>	<p>In review; <i>see</i> H.R. 1419 below; <u>difference is area to be covered</u></p>	<p>4 co-sponsors (none MI); 4-R</p>
<p>H.R. 1142</p>	<p>Would amend Endangered Species Act to require consideration of economic impact in making listing decisions; Rep. Pfluger (R-TX) + 2 original co-sponsors</p>	<p>2/21/2023 introduced, referred to Natural Resources; 3/22 referred to Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries</p>	<p>In review</p>	<p>4 co-sponsors (none MI); 4-R</p>
<p>S. 557/ H.R. 1249</p>	<p>Opportunities for Fairness in Farming (OFF) Act would restrict funds from existing checkoff programs to be used for lobbying; Sen. Lee (R-UT) + 4 original co-sponsors. <i>House: Rep. Mace (R-SC) + 1 original co-sponsor</i></p>	<p>2/28/2023 introduced, referred to Agriculture. <i>House: 2/28/2023 introduced, referred to Agriculture</i></p>	<p>Support Sponsor Press Release</p>	<p>4 co-sponsors (none MI); 3-D; 1-R. H.R. 1249 2 co-sponsors (none MI); 2-D</p>
<p>S. 658</p>	<p>Environmental Quality Incentive Program Improvement (EQIP) Act would restructure program to provide funding for more farmers, ranchers and for the most effective conservation programs; Sen. Booker (D-NJ) + 1 original co-sponsor</p>	<p>3/6/2023 introduced, referred to Agriculture</p>	<p>In review; Summary</p>	<p>2 co-sponsors (none MI); 1-D; 1-R</p>

<p>H.R. 1419</p>	<p>Comprehensive Grizzly Bear Management would direct Interior Secretary to issue new rule removing <u>Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem</u> population of grizzly bears from the ESA protections, and rule not subject to judicial review; Rep.</p>	<p>3/7/2023 introduced, referred to Natural Resources; 3/22 referred to Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries; 3/23 Subcommittee hearings held</p>	<p>In review; see S. 445 above</p>	<p>2 co-sponsors (none MI); 2-R</p>
<p>S. 707/H.R. 1465</p>	<p><small>AFTER ACT, VIOLTS LAW,</small> would allow dogs, cats, primates, rabbits, and other animals to be retired and re-homed when no longer needed for research in federal labs; Sen. Collins (R-ME) + 1 original co-sponsor. <small>House: Rep. Mass (R-SC)</small></p>	<p>3/8/2023 introduced, referred to Agriculture; Sponsor's Remarks on Introduction. House: 3/8/2023 introduced, referred to Agriculture</p>	<p>Support, see S. 1378 last session, AFA supported</p>	<p>18 co-sponsors including Sen. Peters; 17-D; 1-I H.R. 1465 : 53 co-sponsors (including Reps. Slotkin, Stevens, Tlaib, Kildee); 40-D; 13-R</p>
<p>S. 771</p>	<p>Would prohibit non-native species from being listed as endangered or threatened; Sen. Cruz (R-TX)</p>	<p>3/9/23 introduced, referred to Environment</p>	<p>In review</p>	<p>no co-sponsors</p>
<p>H.R. 1624</p>	<p>Puppy Protection Act would strengthen regulation of commercial dog breeders; Rep. Fitzpatrick (R-PA) + 3 original co-sponsors</p>	<p>3/17/2023 introduced, referred to Agriculture</p>	<p>Support; see H.R. 2840 last session, AFA supported</p>	<p>30 co-sponsors including Rep. Kildee; 24-D; 6-R</p>

Text (no bill # assigned)	Food and Farm Bill would reform the safety net for farmers and ranchers, enhance soil, water, and habitat conservation, encourage beginning farmers and ranchers.	3/29/2013 introduced	In review Additional information	Information, press release from sponsor
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Attorneys for Animals Regulatory Tracker™ #12 to March 30, 2023

FEDERAL AGENCY INFORMATION: <https://www.usa.gov/federal-agencies/a>

Agency & Comment Deadline	Action	Summary	Additional Action/Resources	Notes
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RULES / NOTICES WITH OPEN COMMENT PERIODS

Dep't of the Interior / Dep't of Agriculture / Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) 04/10/2023	Proposed Rule: Wild and Exotic Animal Handling, Training of Personnel Involved With Public Handling of Wild and Exotic Animals, and Environmental Enrichment for Species	APHIS is extending the comment period for its advance notice of proposed rulemaking.	USDA proposed rulemaking to strengthen regulations for handling wild, exotic animals American Veterinary Medical Association (avma.org) and https://www.peta.org/action/action-alerts/awa-regulations/	
Dep't of Commerce / National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) /	Proposed Rule: Endangered and Threatened Wildlife; 90-Day Finding on a Petition To List Olympic Peninsula Steelhead as Threatened or	NMFS announces a 90-day finding on a petition to list Olympic Peninsula (OP) steelhead (<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>) as a threatened or endangered distinct population segment (DPS) under the ESA and to designate critical habitat concurrently with the listing. NMFS finds that the petition presents substantial scientific and		

<p>Dep't of the Interior / Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) 04/12/2023</p>	<p>Notice: Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Initiation of 5-Year Status Review of the Mexican Wolf in the Southwest</p>	<p>FWS is conducting a 5-year status review of the Mexican wolf under the ESA. A 5-year status review is based on the best scientific and commercial data available at the time of the review; therefore, FWS is requesting submission of any such information that has become available since the last review for the species.</p>	<p>Mexican Wolf Numbers Soar Past 200 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (fws.gov)</p>	
<p>Dep't of the Interior / Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) 04/18/2023</p>	<p>Proposed Rule: Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Gray Wolf in Colorado</p>	<p>FWS proposes to establish a nonessential experimental population (NEP) of the gray wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>) in the State of Colorado, under section 10(j) of the ESA. The State of Colorado (Colorado Parks and Wildlife or CPW) requested that the Service establish an NEP in conjunction with their State-led gray wolf reintroduction effort. Establishment of this NEP would provide for allowable, legal, purposeful, and incidental taking of the gray wolf within a defined NEP area while concurrently providing for the conservation of the species. The geographic boundaries of the NEP would include the State of Colorado. The best</p>	<p>Critique of proposal: Proposed Rule Allows for Widespread Killing of Reintroduced Colorado Wolves - Center for Biological Diversity</p>	
<p>Dep't of the Interior / Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) 04/24/2023</p>	<p>Proposed Rule: Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; California Spotted Owl; Endangered Status for the Coastal-Southern California Distinct Population Segment and Threatened Status With Section 4(d) Rule for the Sierra Nevada Distinct Population</p>	<p>FWS proposes to list two distinct population segments (DPSs) of the California spotted owl under the ESA. After a review of the best available scientific and commercial information, FWS finds that listing the Coastal-Southern California DPS as endangered is warranted, and that listing the Sierra Nevada DPS as threatened is warranted.</p>	<p>Denied protection in 2019, this reversal came after a lawsuit was filed in 2020, https://defenders.org/newsroom/california-spotted-owl-gets-endangered-species-act-protections-after-23-years-0</p>	

RULES/ NOTICES	WITH INDEFINITE INFORMATION COLLECTION	COLLECTION		
Dep't of the Interior / Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) N/A	Proposed Rule: Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Finding for the Gopher Tortoise Eastern and Western Distinct Population Segments	FWS announces findings on the status of the gopher tortoise rangewide and in the eastern and western portions of the range under the ESA. After a review, FWS finds that listing the gopher tortoise as an endangered or a threatened species rangewide is not warranted. FWS finds that the gopher tortoise in the eastern portion of its range and the gopher tortoise in the western portion of its range meet the criteria of separate distinct population segments (DPS). FWS determines the Eastern DPS of the gopher tortoise is not warranted for listing at this time. Further, FWS confirms that the Western DPS of the gopher tortoise meets the definition of a threatened species.	Notice of Intent to Sue filed by Center for Biological Diversity, March 22, 2023: https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/species/reptiles/gopher_tortoise/pdfs/2023-03-22--Gopher-Tortoise-not-warranted-NOI.pdf	
Dep't of the Interior / Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) N/A	Proposed Rule: Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 90-Day Findings for Four Species	FWS announces 90-day findings on petitions to add species to the Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants under the ESA. FWS finds that the petitions to list the southern population of bog turtle, Pedernales River Springs salamander present substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned actions may be warranted. FWS announces that it is initiating status reviews of these species.		
Dept. of Interior / Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) N/A	Proposed Rule: Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 90-Day Finding for Three Petitions To List the Yellowstone Bison	FWS announces a 90-day finding on three petitions to add a distinct population segment of the Plains bison in and around Yellowstone National Park to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife under the ESA. Based on FWS's review, it finds that the petitions present substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned actions may be warranted. FWS announces that it plans to initiate a status review.	Meanwhile, they are being hunted, https://www.counterpunch.org/2023/03/08/reality-check-the-yellowstone-bison-hunt-is-a-slaughter/	

<p>Dept. of Interior / Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) N/A</p>	<p>Proposed Rule: Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 90-Day Findings for 4 Species</p>	<p>FWS announces 90-day findings on petitions to add four species to the ESA. FWS finds that the petitions to list the common hippopotamu, Morro Bay polyphyllan scarab beetle, and roughhead shiner present substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned actions may be warranted. FWS announces that it is initiating status reviews of these species.</p>	<p>The decision comes shortly after HSUS and CBD filed a notice of intent to sue over FWS failure to respond to their petitions, https://blog.humanesociety.org/2023/02/humane-society-usfws-hippos-endangered-species-act.html?credit=blog_post_021523_id13325#comments</p>	
FINAL RULES				
<p>Dep't of the Interior / Dep't of Agriculture / Agricultural Marketing Service N/A</p>	<p>Final Rule: National Organic Program (NOP); Strengthening Organic Enforcement</p>	<p>This rulemaking amends the USDA organic regulations to strengthen oversight and enforcement of the production, handling, and sale of organic agricultural products. The amendments protect integrity in the organic supply chain and build consumer and industry trust in the USDA organic label by strengthening organic control systems, improving farm to market traceability, and providing robust enforcement of the USDA organic regulations.</p> <p><i>This rule is effective March 20, 2023.</i></p>	<p>AFA submitted comment, November 2022, https://www.attorneysforanimals.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/AFA-OLPS-Comment-111022.pdf</p>	
<p>Dep't of the Interior / Dep't of Agriculture / Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service N/A</p>	<p>Final Rule: Standards for Birds Not Bred for Use in Research Under the Animal Welfare Act</p>	<p>APHIS is amending the regulations to establish standards governing the humane handling, care, treatment, and transportation of birds, excluding birds bred for use in research, covered under the Animal Welfare Act. This action will ensure the humane handling, care, treatment, and transportation of birds not bred for use in research and covered under the Act.</p> <p><i>This rule is effective March 23, 2023.</i></p>	<p>AFA submitted comment, May 2022, https://www.attorneysforanimals.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/AFA_StandardsForBirds_052522.pdf</p>	

<p>Dep't of the Interior / Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) N/A</p>	<p>Final Rule: Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Lesser Prairie-Chicken; Threatened Status With Section 4(d) Rule for the Northern Distinct Population Segment and Endangered Status for the Southern Distinct Population Segment; Delay of Effective</p>	<p>FWS is delaying the effective date of a final rule it published on November 25, 2022, and corrected on December 2, 2022, listing two distinct population segments (DPSs) of the lesser prairie-chicken (<i>Tympanuchus pallidicinctus</i>) under the ESA and establishing measures that are necessary and advisable to provide for the conservation of the Northern DPS pursuant to section 4(d) of the ESA. This delay is necessary for FWS to finalize conservation tools and guidance documents to avoid confusion and disruption with Federal agencies in the implementation of section 7 of the ESA and to avoid disruption to the public who would be regulated by the rule. The effective date of the final rule that published on November 25, 2022, at 87 FR 72674, and corrected on December 2, 2022, at 87 FR 73971, is delayed from January 24, 2023, to March 27, 2023.</p> <p><i>This rule is effective March 27, 2023.</i></p>		
<p>Dep't of the Interior / Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) N/A</p>	<p>Final Rule: Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Northern Long-Eared Bat; Delay of Effective Date</p>	<p>FWS is delaying the effective date of a final rule it published on November 30, 2022, reclassifying the northern long-eared bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>) as an endangered species under the ESA. This delay is necessary for FWS to finalize conservation tools and guidance documents to avoid confusion and disruption with members of the public who would be regulated by the rule and Federal agencies in the implementation of section 7 of the ESA. The effective date of the final rule amending 50 CFR part 17, published November 30, 2022, at 87 FR 73488, is delayed until March 31, 2023.</p> <p><i>This rule is effective March 31, 2023.</i></p>		