

FY 2026-27 NATURAL RESOURCES BUDGET

S.B. 862 (S-1): SENATE APPROPRIATIONS REC.

(as reported)

Committee: Appropriations



Throughout this document Senate means Committee Recommendation

FULL-TIME EQUATED (FTE) CLASSIFIED POSITIONS/FUNDING SOURCE	FY 2025-26 YEAR-TO-DATE*	FY 2026-27 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS REC.	CHANGES FROM FY 2025-26 YEAR-TO-DATE	
			AMOUNT	PERCENT
FTE Positions	2,509.2	2,499.9	(9.3)	(0.4)
GROSS	543,194,300	597,918,100	54,723,800	10.1
Less:				
Interdepartmental Grants Received	208,100	208,300	200	0.1
ADJUSTED GROSS	542,986,200	597,709,800	54,723,600	10.1
Less:				
Federal Funds	100,214,800	102,198,400	1,983,600	2.0
Local and Private.....	7,609,200	8,330,900	721,700	9.5
TOTAL STATE SPENDING.....	435,162,200	487,180,500	52,018,300	12.0
Less:				
Other State Restricted Funds.....	362,152,800	425,493,600	63,340,800	17.5
GENERAL FUND/GENERAL PURPOSE	73,009,400	61,686,900	(11,322,500)	(15.5)
PAYMENTS TO LOCALS	10,596,800	15,262,100	4,665,300	44.0

*As of February 11, 2026.

- Major Boilerplate Changes from FY 2025-26 Year-to-Date:**
- The Senate's recommendation deleted the following sections from current-year boilerplate sections:** 219 (E-Verify Requirements), 226 (Publicly Available Reports), 234 (Prohibition on Utility-Scale Solar and Wind), 253 (Legal Services Regarding Swine), 254 (Feeding Birds), 255 (Identification of State Land), 256 (Fee Contingency), 501 (Natural River Prohibition), 601 (General Law Enforcement FTEs), 701 (Opt-Out Requirement), (1201-1202 (Removal of one-time sections).
 - Modified – The Senate's recommendation amended the following sections:** 204 (Internet Reporting Requirements), 215 (Legislatively Directed Spending), 408 (Land Transactions Report), and 802 (Timber Report).
 - NEW Sections - The Senate's recommendation included NEW boilerplate in the following sections:** 217 (SFRF Automatic Reappropriation), 218 (SFRF Expenditure Deadline), 234 (Boilerplate Appropriations Report), and 1201 (Whitefish Recovery).

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 S.B. 862 (S-1): SENATE APPROPRIATIONS REC.

FY 2025-26 Year-to-Date Appropriation	\$543,194,300	\$73,009,400		
	CHANGE FROM FY 2025-26 Y-T-D		FY 2026-27 RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATION	
	Gross	GF/GP	Gross	GF/GP
<u>Baseline Adjustments</u>				
1. Align Spending Authority - Recreation Improvement Fund. The Senate included an alignment of funding to recognize the DNR's constitutionally provided 2% of new revenue generated from the increased gas tax in PA 20 of 2025.	17,700,000	0	N/A	N/A
2. Capital Outlay – State Parks Repair and Maintenance. The Senate included an alignment of Restricted Park Endowment Fund and Recreation Passport revenue with current estimates.	9,250,000	0	30,450,000	1,500,000
3. CSB Technical. The Senate included \$4.0 million to align various spending authorizations resulting from higher-than-expected revenues. This also accounts for realigning fund sourcing from the law enforcement division and internal transfers between divisions reflecting current operations.	4,021,700	0	N/A	N/A
4. Capital Outlay – Snowmobile Trail Improvement. The Senate included \$1.8 million Restricted authorization to accommodate higher anticipated permit fee revenue based on cumulative growth in the Detroit CPI over the last 5 years.	1,800,000	0	2,800,000	0
5. Silver Lake State Park Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Area Fund Shift. The Senate shifted funds for the Silver Lake State Park Off Road Vehicle Area operation from park improvement lines to offroad vehicle trail improvement lines items to maintain compliance with 1994 PA 431.	1,404,100	0	N/A	N/A
6. Capital Outlay – Wetland Restoration, Enhancement, and Acquisition. The Senate included \$500,000 Restricted authorization to reflect revenues generated by Waterfowl Hunt Stamps which are designated for purpose of wetland restoration, enhancement, and acquisition.	500,000	0	1,933,700	1,000,000
7. Align Spending Authority – Kirtland’s Warbler Management. The Senate included \$150,000 from the Kirtland’s Warbler Account, a private, nongame wildlife fund, to support land management decisions related to the Kirtland’s Warbler.	150,000	0	842,600	0

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	CHANGE FROM FY 2025-26 Y-T-D		FY 2026-27 RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATION	
	Gross	GF/GP	Gross	GF/GP
8. Capital Outlay – ORV Trail Development and Maintenance. The Senate included a net decrease across six different line items to reflect reduced revenues in the ORV Fund.	(3,965,900)	0		
9. Economic Adjustments. Included \$5,551,100 Gross and \$889,200 GF/GP for total economic adjustments.	5,551,100	889,200	N/A	N/A
<u>New Programs/Program Increases</u>				
10. Game and Fish License Fees. The Senate included \$29.4 million Restricted authorization from the Game and Fish Protection Fund that is estimated to be generated by Senate-proposed fee increases and adjustments found in SBs 276 and 277. These fees were last increased in 2014.	29,423,300	0	N/A	N/A
11. Michigan History Center Support (1.5 FTEs). The Senate included \$436,200 increased Restricted authorization from the Michigan Historical Center Operations Fund to support additional FTEs.	436,200	0	7,328,300	3,365,500
12. State Park Employee Recruitment and Retention (3.0 FTEs). The Senate included \$393,700 Restricted funding to support 3.0 supervisory FTEs in Michigan’s state parks. These FTEs would represent the second wave of such positions which were previously approved by the Civil Service Commission with up to three more waves anticipated over the next few years.	393,700	0	N/A	N/A
13. Detroit River Boating Access Expansion. The Senate included \$271,300 increased Restricted authorization to the Recreational Boating line for the acquisition and management of the St. Jean Boat Launch at Gray Haven State Harbor along the Detroit River.	271,300	0	25,689,200	0
<u>Eliminations/Reductions - NONE</u>				
<u>One-Time Appropriations</u>				
14. Whitefish Recovery. The Senate included a \$100 earmark for a potential program supporting lake whitefish stock recovery.	100	100	100	100
15. Removal of FY 2025-26 One-Time and Supplemental Appropriations. The Senate removes FY 2025-26 One-Time appropriations. This includes: dam safety and management (\$1.5 million), Elberta Waterfront Community conservation project (\$1.8 million), extreme weather forestry	(12,211,800)	(12,211,800)	0	0

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	CHANGE FROM FY 2025-26 Y-T-D		FY 2026-27 RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATION	
	Gross	GF/GP	Gross	GF/GP
restoration activities (\$2.2 million), fish production (\$2.8 million), nature awaits (\$2.0 million), and ice storm wildfire protection (\$2.0 million).				
Other - NONE				
Total Changes.....	\$54,723,800	(\$11,322,500)		
FY 2026-27 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS REC.	\$597,918,100	\$61,686,900		

Date Completed: 4-16-26

Fiscal Analyst: Jonah Houtz

Item #	Budget Area/Line Items	Gov Changes to FY 2025-26			Senate Changes to FY 2025-26		
		FTE	GROSS	GF/GP	FTE	GROSS	GF/GP
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES							
<u>Non-CSB Ongoing Changes</u>							
1	Game and fish license adjustments		29,423,300	0	29,423,300	0	0
2	Boating license fee increase		6,862,700	0	0	0	0
3	Michigan History Center support	1.5	436,200	0	1.5	436,200	0
4	State park employee recruitment and retention	3.0	393,700	0	3.0	393,700	0
5	Detroit River boating access expansion		271,300	0	271,300	0	0
Subtotal - Non-CSB Ongoing		4.5	37,387,200	0	4.5	30,524,500	0
<u>CSB Ongoing Changes</u>							
1	Recreation improvement fund authorization alignment		17,700,000	0	17,700,000	0	0
2	Capital Outlay - State parks repair and maintenance		9,250,000	0	9,250,000	0	0
3	CSB Technical		4,021,700	0	4,021,700	0	0
4	Capital Outlay - Snowmobile trail improvement		1,800,000	0	1,800,000	0	0
5	Silver Lake State Park off road vehicle area fund shift		1,404,100	0	1,404,100	0	0
6	Capital Outlay - Wetland restoration, enhancement, and acquisition		1,000,000	0	500,000	0	0
7	Kirtland's Warbler management authorization alignment		150,000	0	150,000	0	0
8	Capital Outlay - ORV trail development and maintenance		(3,965,900)	0	(3,965,900)	0	0
9	Economic adjustments		5,521,600	889,200	5,521,600	889,200	889,200
10	Unclassified salaries		29,500	0	29,500	0	0
Subtotal - CSB Ongoing		0.0	36,911,000	889,200	0.0	36,411,000	889,200
<u>One-Time Changes</u>							
1	Remove FY26 one-time and supplemental appropriations	(13.8)	(12,211,800)	(12,211,800)	(13.8)	(12,211,800)	(12,211,800)
2	Nature Awaits	14.0	1,436,200	1,436,200	0.0	0	0
3	Whitefish study					100	100
4							
5							
Subtotal - One-Time		0.2	(10,775,600)	(10,775,600)	(13.8)	(12,211,700)	(12,211,700)
TOTAL DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES		4.7	63,522,600	(9,886,400)	(9.3)	54,723,800	(11,322,500)