

MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, June 4, 2014 9:00 a.m. Room 307 House Office Building, Lansing

Representative Daley, Chair, called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Representatives Daley, Denby, Kurtz, Glardon, Johnson, McBroom, Outman, Rendon, Victory, Lauwers, Pagel, Smiley, Hovey-Wright, LaVoy, Geiss, Talabi.

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Representative Brunner.

Representative Geiss made a motion to adopt the minutes of the meeting of May 21, 2014. No objections being offered, the minutes were accepted as presented.

Representative Denby made a motion to excuse absent member. No objections being offered, absent member was excused.

The Chair laid the following bill before the Committee for the purpose of receiving testimony:

SB 685 (Booher) Agriculture; weights and measures; date reference in handbook; revise to 2013.

Derek Bajema, representing the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), spoke to the Committee regarding SB 685 and indicated a neutral position.

Senator Booher reviewed the provisions of SB 685 with the Committee.

Mark Griffin and Patrick Campbell, representing the Michigan Oil Change Association, spoke in support of SB 685.

The Chair laid the following bill before the Committee.

HB 5379 (Outman) Counties; boards and commissions; act authorizing a county to levy a special tax or appropriate from the county general fund for the purpose of advertising agricultural advantages; repeal.

Paul Krutko, representing Ann Arbor SPARK, spoke in opposition to the bill. Mr. Krutko provided a presentation which reviewed the following topics: Unemployment Rates for Washtenaw County (US 2005-2013); GDP Growth-Ann Arbor MSA; Strong GDP Growth in the Ann Arbor Region; Retention and Expansion; 2013-The Year in Review; 2006-2013 Results;

2006-2013 Project Successes; Growing Companies; New Companies to Ann Arbor; Business Development.

The following individuals also spoke to the Committee regarding HB 5379:

Mary Jo Callan and Melissa Milton-Pung, representing Washtenaw County, in opposition

William Gordon, representing the Washtenaw County Republican Party, in support

Samantha Bellairs, representing the MSU Extension 4-H Washtenaw County, in opposition

Cards for HB 5379 were submitted by:

Rebecca Park, representing the Michigan Farm Bureau, in support

Nikki Brown, representing the Michigan Municipal League, in opposition

Jim Casha of Norwich, Ontario, in opposition

Bill McMaster, representing Taxpayers United, in support

Chair Daley stated that a presentation on the Karegnondi Water Authority (KWA) would be received at this time.

Jeff Wright, Genesee County Drain Commissioner, provided a presentation on the Karegnondi Water Authority and its Impact on Agriculture and reviewed the Karegnondi Water Authority; estimated vs. actual cost; tunneling equipment utilized; that the Michigan Agri-Business Association supports KWA; KWA water commodities; possibilities (special crops and green technology); water and “the Blue Economy”. Mike DiBernardo, representing MDARD Agriculture Development, also provided information regarding the KWA and answered questions.

The Chair laid the following bill before the Committee.

HB 5432 (MacMaster) Natural resources; nonnative species; status of native swine; clarify.

Matt Schueller, representing Representative MacMaster, reviewed the provisions of HB 5432 with the Committee.

The following individuals also spoke to the Committee

Sam Hines, representing the Michigan Pork Producers Association, in opposition

Mark Baker, representing Bakers Green Acres, in support

Bill Spike, representing the Michigan Soybean Association, in opposition

Representative MacMaster spoke to the Committee regarding the contents of HB 5432.

Cards for HB 5432 were submitted by:

Amy Trotter, representing the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, in opposition
Larry Julian, representing the Michigan Soybean Association and Michigan Equine
Partnership, in opposition
Val Vail-Shirey, representing Michigan Allied Poultry, in opposition
Trevor Van Dyke, representing the Department of Natural Resources, in opposition
David Gregory, representing the Green Stone Farm, in opposition
Brendan Ringlever, representing the Potato Growers of Michigan, Inc., in opposition
Jim Byrum, representing the Michigan Agri-Business Association, in opposition
Jim Casha of Norwich, Ontario, in support

There being no additional business before the Committee, Chair Daley declared the meeting adjourned, the time being 10:31 a.m.

Representative Kevin Daley, Chair

Catherine Petroskey, Committee Clerk (517) 373-8538