

**THE MINUTES OF THE HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
COMMERCE**

Wednesday, September 24, 2014

10:30 a.m.

Room 519 House Office Building

The House Standing Committee on Commerce was called to order by **Representative Frank Foster**, Chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Representatives Foster, Zorn, Haines, Schmidt, Farrington, Glardon, Johnson, Nesbitt, Somerville, Outman, Kelly, Leonard, Switalski, Barnett, Townsend, Santana, Driskell and Yanez.

MEMBERS ABSENT/EXCUSED: Representative Oakes.

Representative Outman moved to excuse Representative Oakes from the committee. There being no objection, the motion prevailed by unanimous consent.

Chair Foster laid **HB 5856** before the committee:

HB 5856 (Kowall)	Economic development; other; downtown development authorities reporting and oversight; modify.
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TESTIMONY

Representative Kowall, sponsor of HB 5856, explained her bill to the committee.

Questions and discussion followed.

Representative Farrington moved to adopt the minutes of the **September 17, 2014**, meeting. There being no objection, the motion prevailed by unanimous consent.

Robert Donohue, representing the Michigan Downtown Association, testified and submitted written testimony in support of the bill.

Dana Foster, City Manager for the City of Brighton, testified in support of the bill.

Deena Bosworth, representing the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC), testified and submitted a handout to the committee in opposition to the bill.

Steve Deisler, representing the Kalamazoo Downtown Development Authority (DDA), testified and submitted written testimony in support of the bill with an amendment.

Jerome Kisscorni, Assistant City Manager for the City of Kalamazoo, testified in support of the bill.

Nikki Brown, representing the Michigan Municipal League (MML), testified but did not indicate a position on the bill.

Joe Disanto, representing the Brownstown Township (DDA), testified indicating neutrality on the bill.

Andrew Linko, representing the Charter Township of Brownstown, testified indicating neutrality on the bill.

Lynn Markland, representing the City of Fenton, testified in opposition to the bill.

Matthew Gibb testified on behalf of L. Brooks Patterson, Oakland County, in opposition to the bill.

Karin LaMothe, testified and submitted written testimony indicating neutrality on the bill, on behalf of Susan Ireland, Van Buren Township (DDA).

Kara Wood, representing the City of Grand Rapids, testified in support of the bill.

Bill McMaster, representing Taxpayers United, testified in opposition to the bill.

Chair Foster called Vice-Chair Zorn to the chair.

The following people submitted a card and/or written testimony but did not speak:

Mike Frederick, representing the Michigan Historic Preservation Network, supports the bill.

George Carr, representing the MetroParks, Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA), supports the bill.

Patricia Rayl, Blissfield (DDA) Director/Main Street Manager, supports the bill.

Art Papapanos, representing the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation, did not indicate a position on the bill.

Cristina Sheppard-Decius, Ferndale (DDA) Executive Director, indicated neutrality on the bill.

Susan Ireland, Van Buren Township (DDA) Executive Director, supports the bill.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the Vice-Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

Representative Frank Foster, Chair
House Standing Committee on Commerce

Malika Abdul-Basir

Committee Clerk

517-373-7256

1 Hour and 34 Minutes