



MICHIGAN
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
P.O. Box 30014
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7514

Minutes of the House Standing Committee
on
Natural Resources

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

8:30 a.m.

Room 307 House Office Building

The House Standing Committee on Natural Resources was called to order by Representative Andrea L. LaFontaine, Chair.

The Clerk called the roll; members present were **Representatives LaFontaine, Rendon, Goike, Johnson, McBroom, Victory, Smiley, Dianda, and Kivela. (9/9)**
The Clerk announced that a quorum was present.

The Chair laid before the committee the minutes of December 2, 2014 as printed.

Representative Rendon moved to adopt the minutes of December 2, 2014 as printed. There being no objection, the motion prevailed by unanimous consent of the members present; the minutes were adopted as printed.

The Chair announced she would be taking testimony first, and would be voting afterwards due to members being in other committees.

The Chair laid before the committee Senate Bill 753.

SB 753 (Caswell) Environmental protection; water pollution; local government liability for on-site wastewater treatment systems; provide exemption under certain circumstances.

Senator Caswell, the bill sponsor, explained the need for his legislation to the committee members.

The following individuals submitted a testimony card in support of the legislation, but did not wish to speak:

Derek Tisler, Legislative Assistant for the Michigan Municipal League;

Sarah Howes, Legislative Liaison for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality;

Tom Frazier, Legislative Liaison for the Michigan Townships Association; and
James Clift, Policy Director at the Michigan Environmental Council.

The Chair laid before the committee Senate Bills 941 and 942.

SB 941 (Kowall) Environmental protection; solid waste; scrap tire regulations; modify.

SB 942 (Casperson) Criminal procedure; sentencing guidelines; sentencing guidelines for certain scrap tire and hazardous waste violations; establish.

The Chair asked Senator Kowall and Senator Casperson, the bill sponsors, to come up to introduce their bill package; Senator Kowall explained the bills.

Gary Melow, Director of Michigan Biomass, testified in support of the bills.

The following individuals submitted a testimony card in support of the bills, but did not wish to speak:

Sarah Howes, Legislative Liaison for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality;

Tom Frazier, Legislative Liaison for the Michigan Townships Association; and
James Clift, Policy Director at the Michigan Environmental Council.

The Chair laid before the committee Senate Bill 78.

SB 78 (Casperson) Natural resources; wildlife; designation of biodiversity areas; prohibit by DNR and remove biological diversity from list of state forest management goals.

Senator Casperson, the bill sponsor, explained the need for his legislation to the committee members. Following his explanation, Senator Casperson addressed various members' questions.

Dr. Bradley Cardinale, Associate Professor in the School of Natural Resources and Environment at the University of Michigan, testified in opposition to the bill.

At 9:05 a.m., the Chair handed the gavel over to Majority Vice-Chair Rendon.

Following his remarks, Dr. Cardinale, responded to questions from various members. A copy of his letter to the Governor was submitted to the committee.

James Clift, Policy Director at the Michigan Environmental Council, testified in opposition to the bill as written. Mr. Clift answered questions from committee members. A copy of his written testimony was submitted to the committee.

Robert Gordon, Huron Valley Executive Committee Board Member of the Michigan Sierra Club, testified in opposition to the bill, and addressed a member's question.

Brenda Owen, Executive Director for the Michigan Association of Timbermen, testified in support of the bill, and submitted written testimony.

Henry Schienebeck, Executive Director for the Great Lakes Timber Professionals, testified in support of the legislation, and submitted written testimony to the committee. Following his remarks, Mr. Schienebeck responded to various questions from committee members.

At 9:35 a.m., the Chair took over the gavel.

Trevor VanDyke, Legislative Liaison, and Policy Advisor for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and William O'Neil, Chief of the Forest Resource Division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, testified on the legislation. Mr. VanDyke and Mr. O'Neil responded to various questions from a committee members.

The following individuals submitted a testimony card in support of the legislation, but did not wish to speak:

Scott Robbins, Director of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and Public Affairs for the Michigan Forest Products Council;

Matt Evans, Legislative Affairs Manager for the Michigan United Conservation Clubs; and

Will Borden, Board Member of the Lake States Lumber Association and General Manager of Quality Hardwoods, Incorporated.

Mr. Robbins and Mr. Borden submitted written testimony to the committee.

The following individuals submitted a testimony card in opposition to the legislation, but did not wish to speak:

Richard Bowman, Director of Government Relations for Nature Conservancy of Michigan, and

Dondre Young, Policy Assistant at the Michigan League of Conservation Voters.

The following individuals e-mailed testimony in opposition to the legislation, which was submitted to the committee:

Seamus Norgaard, Professor at North Central Michigan College;

Andrea Chynoweth;

Michael and Joanne Cromley;

Stephen Brede;

Dave Mayberry;

Charles Donaldson;

Sandee Ware-Ware Farms; and

Jo Anne Beemon.

Representative Goike moved to report Senate Bill 78 without amendment and with the recommendation that the bill pass.

The motion prevailed by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members appointed to and serving on the committee, voting as follows:

Yeas: Representatives LaFontaine, Rendon, Goike, Johnson, McBroom, and Victory, (6/9)

Nays: None, (0)

Pass: Representatives Smiley, Dianda, and Kivela. (3/9)

The bill was referred to the full House.

The Chair laid before the committee Senate Bills 941 and 942.

SB 941 (Kowall) Environmental protection; solid waste; scrap tire regulations; modify.

SB 942 (Casperson) Criminal procedure; sentencing guidelines; sentencing guidelines for certain scrap tire and hazardous waste violations; establish.

Representative McBroom moved to report Senate Bill 942 without amendment and with the recommendation that the bill pass.

The motion prevailed by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members appointed to and serving on the committee, voting as follows:

Yeas: Representatives LaFontaine, Rendon, Goike, Johnson, McBroom, Victory, Smiley, Dianda, and Kivela, (9/9)

Nays: None. (0)

The bill was referred to the full House.

Representative McBroom moved to report Senate Bill 941 without amendment and with the recommendation that the bill pass.

The motion prevailed by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members appointed to and serving on the committee, voting as follows:

Yeas: Representatives LaFontaine, Rendon, Goike, Johnson, McBroom, Victory, Smiley, Dianda, and Kivela, (9/9)

Nays: None. (0)

The bill was referred to the full House.

The Chair laid before the committee Senate Bill 753.

SB 753 (Caswell) Environmental protection; water pollution; local government liability for on-site wastewater treatment systems; provide exemption under certain circumstances.

Representative Goike moved to report Senate Bill 753 without amendment and with the recommendation that the bill pass.

The motion prevailed by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members appointed to and serving on the committee, voting as follows:

Yeas: Representatives LaFontaine, Rendon, Goike, Johnson, McBroom, Victory, and Kivela, (7/9)

Nays: None. (0)

Pass: Representatives Smiley and Dianda. (2/9)

The bill was referred to the full House.

There being no other business before the committee; **Representative Rendon moved to adjourn the meeting.**

The motion prevailed by unanimous consent of members present, the time being 9:52 a.m.

The Chair declared the Committee adjourned.

Andrea M. LaFontaine, Chair
House Standing Committee on Natural Resources

Joy Brewer, Committee Clerk

Date approved by the committee