

The Senate



SENATOR
JIM BARCIA
Chair

**Committee on Hunting, Fishing
and Outdoor Recreation**

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Minutes of the
**Senate Standing Committee on
Hunting, Fishing, and Outdoor Recreation**

Thursday, March 26, 2009

1:00 p.m.

Room 100 Farnum Building

The Senate Standing Committee on Hunting, Fishing, and Outdoor Recreation was called to order by Senator Jim Barica, Chair.

The Clerk called the roll; members present were Senators Barica, Cropsey, and Allen. (3/5)

The Chair laid before the committee the proposed Committee Rules of the Hunting, Fishing and Outdoor recreation Committee.

Senator Cropsey moved that the Committee Rules be adopted as printed.

Senator Allen supported the motion.

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

Yeas: Senators Barica, Cropsey, and Allen (3/5)

Nays: None. (0)

The Chair laid before the committee the minutes of December 2, 2008 as printed.

Senator Allen moved to adopt the minutes of December 2, 2008 as printed.

Senator Cropsey supported the motion.

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

Yeas: Senators Barica, Cropsey, and Allen (3/5)

Nays: None. (0)

The Chair expressed the need for a motion to excuse Senators McManus and Prusi.

Senator Cropsey moved to excuse Senators McManus and Prusi.

Senator Allen supported the motion.

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

Yeas: Senators Barcia, Cropsey, and Allen (3/5)

Nays: None. (0)

The Chair laid before the committee House Bill 4286.

House Bill No. 4286, entitled

A bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled "Natural resources and environmental protection act," by amending section 504 (MCL 324.504), as amended by 2004 PA 130.

Daniel Eichinger, Legislative Liaison for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, explained the bill to the committee members.

Dave Nyberg, representing Michigan United Conservation Clubs, testified in support of the bill. A copy of his written testimony is attached to the report-out-file for the bill.

Rebecca Park, representing Michigan Farm Bureau, submitted a testimony card in support of the bill, but did not testify.

Senator Allen moved to report House Bill 4286 with the recommendation that the bill pass.

Senator Cropsey supported the motion.

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

Yeas: Senators Barcia, Cropsey, and Allen (3/5)

Nays: None. (0)

Senator Cropsey moved that the committee further recommend that the bill be given immediate effect.

Senator Allen supported the motion.

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

Yeas: Senators Barcia, Cropsey, and Allen (3/5)

Nays: None. (0)

The bill was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

The Chair laid before the committee Senate Bill 164.

Senate Bill No. 164, entitled

A bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled "Natural resources and environmental protection act," by amending section 40114 (MCL 324.40114), as amended by 2008 PA 169.

Senator Barcia, the bill sponsor, explained the bill to the committee members.

Daniel Eichinger, Legislative Liaison for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, testified in support of the bill.

Dave Nyberg, representing Michigan United Conservation Clubs, submitted a testimony card in support of the bill, but did not testify.

Senator Cropsey moved to report Senate Bill No. 164 with the recommendation that the bill pass.

Senator Allen supported the motion.

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

Yeas: Senators Barcia, Cropsey, and Allen (3/5)

Nays: None. (0)

Senator Allen moved that the committee further recommend that the bill be given immediate effect.

Senator Cropsey supported the motion.

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

Yeas: Senators Barcia, Cropsey, and Allen (3/5)

Nays: None. (0)

The bill was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

The Chair laid before the committee Senate Bill 349.

Senate Bill No. 349, entitled

A bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled "Natural resources and environmental protection act," by amending section 43521 (MCL 324.43521), as amended by 1996 PA 585.

Senator Barcia, the bill sponsor, explained the bill and its substitute (S-1) to the committee members.

Daniel Eichinger, Legislative Liaison for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, testified in support of the bill.

Dave Nyberg, representing Michigan United Conservation Clubs, submitted a testimony card in support of the bill, but did not testify.

Senator Cropsey moved to adopt the substitute (S-1) for Senate Bill 349.

Senator Allen supported the motion.

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

Yeas: Senators Barcia, Cropsey, and Allen (3/5)

Nays: None. (0)

Senator Cropsey moved to report Senate Bill 349 (S-1) with the recommendation that the bill pass.

Senator Allen supported the motion.

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

Yeas: Senators Barcia, Cropsey, and Allen (3/5)

Nays: None. (0)

Senator Allen moved that the committee further recommend that the bill be given immediate effect.

Senator Cropsey supported the motion.

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

Yeas: Senators Barcia, Cropsey, and Allen (3/5)

Nays: None. (0)

The bill was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

The Chair laid before the committee Senate Bill 409.

Senate Bill No. 409, entitled

A bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled "Natural resources and environmental protection act," by amending section 43542 (MCL 324.43542), as added by 1995 PA 57.

Senator Barcia, the bill sponsor, explained the bill to the committee members.

Daniel Eichinger, Legislative Liaison for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, testified in support of the bill.

Dave Nyberg, representing Michigan United Conservation Clubs, submitted a testimony card in support of the bill, but did not testify.

Senator Allen moved to report Senate Bill No. 409 with the recommendation that the bill pass.

Senator Cropsey supported the motion.

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

Yeas: Senators Barcia, Cropsey, and Allen (3/5)

Nays: None. (0)

Senator Cropsey moved that the committee further recommend that the bill be given immediate effect.

Senator Allen supported the motion.

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

Yeas: Senators Barcia, Cropsey, and Allen (3/5)

Nays: None. (0)

The bill was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

The committee heard testimony regarding the devastating impact of the cormorant on Michigan's beaches, ecosystem, and environment, as well as the state's fishing & tourism industries. Control and disruption strategies were explained and explored in an effort to find a successful legislative strategy to support increased cormorant control in Michigan.

Senator Barcia provided opening remarks to frame the issue for the committee.

Senator Allen provided remarks to further explain the issue and the need for immediate action.

Dr. Jeffrey Powers, President of the Beaver Island Wildlife Club, provided testimony in support of cormorant control. A print out of a power-point presentation he provided is attached to the report-out-file for the bill.

Tony Alderman, representing USDA Wildlife Services, provided testimony detailing current cormorant management results. The written data he provided to the committee is attached to the report-out-file for the bill.

Dr. Russ Mason, Chief of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division, testified regarding the current federal depredation order and the changes needed.

Larry Meier, representing the Fishermen of Michigan, provided testimony in support of cormorant control. The two handouts he provided to the committee are attached to the report-out-file for the bill.

Richard Underwood, representing the Ludington Boat Club, provided testimony in support of cormorant control. His written testimony is attached to the report-out-file for the bill.

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Ray Giacobone, Lapeer County Sportsman, provided testimony in support of cormorant control.

Representative Darwin Booher of Michigan House District 102 provided testimony in support of legislation for cormorant control.

Patrick Tiedt of Rep. Darwin Booher's office submitted a testimony card in support of increased cormorant control, but did not wish to testify.

Dave Fielder, representing the Fisheries Division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, submitted a testimony card indicating his presence and his willingness to answer questions if needed, but did not wish to testify.

Steve Scott, representing the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, submitted a testimony card indicating his presence and his willingness to answer questions if needed, but did not wish to testify.

There being no other business before the committee; Senator Cropsey moved and Senator Allen supported a motion to adjourn. Hearing no opposition, **the Chair adjourned the meeting.** The time being 3:47 p.m.

Jim Barcia, Chair
Senate Standing Committee on Hunting, Fishing and Outdoor Recreation

Jennifer Barnes, Committee Clerk

Date approved by the committee