

Minutes of the Joint Committee Meeting
of the
Senate Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs
and
House Standing Committee on Great Lakes and Environment

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

8:00 a.m.

Senate Hearing Room,
Ground Floor, Boji Tower

The Senate Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs was called to order by Senator Patricia Birkholz, Chair.

The Senate Clerk called the roll; **members present were Senators Birkholz, Van Woerkom, Basham and Gleason. (4/5)**

Member absent and excused was Senator Patterson. (1/5)

Mary Brown, Michigan Natural Resources Commissioner, led the members of the committee in the recital of the *Pledge of Allegiance to the flag*.

The House Standing Committee on Great Lakes and Environment was called to order by Representative Rebekah Warren, Chair.

The House Clerk called the roll; **members present were Representatives Warren, Nerat, Bledsoe, Kennedy, Leland, Meadows, Roberts, Scripps, Meekhof, Daley, Haveman, Rick Jones, Pavlov, and Wayne Schmidt. (14/15)**

Member absent and excused were Representatives Ebli. (1/15)

Senator Birkholz was in the Chair.

The Senate Chair laid before the committee the minutes of March 25, 2009 as printed.

Senator Van Woerkom moved to adopt the minutes of March 25, 2009 as printed. Senator Gleason supported the motion.

There being no objection the motion prevailed by unanimous consent of the members present; the minutes were adopted as printed.

Representative Warren was in the Chair.

Representative Warren informed her committee members that they will be adopting their minutes from their last meeting at their next regular scheduled meeting.

The Senate Chair laid before the Senate committee Senate Bills 388 and 389, and the House Chair laid before the House committee House Bills 4677 and 4678.

Senate Bill No. 388, entitled

A bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled "Natural resources and environmental protection act," by amending sections 2005, 2030, 2035, 74101, 74102a, 74116, 74117, 74122, 74123, 78105, and 83106 (MCL 324.2005, 324.2030, 324.2035, 324.74101, 324.74102a, 324.74116, 324.74117, 324.74122, 324.74123, 324.78105, and 324.83106), sections 2005, 2030, and 2035 as added and sections 74101, 74122, 78105, and 83106 as amended by 2004 PA 587, section 74102a as amended by 2006 PA 307, sections 74116 and 74123 as added by 1995 PA 58, and section 74117 as amended by 2006 PA 477, and by adding sections 1911 and 2045; and to repeal acts and parts of acts.

Senate Bill No. 389, entitled

A bill to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled "Michigan vehicle code," (MCL 257.1 to 257.923) by adding section 805.

House Bill No. 4677, entitled

A bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled "Natural resources and environmental protection act," by amending sections 2005, 2030, 2035, 74101, 74102a, 74116, 74117, 74122, 74123, 78105, and 83106 (MCL 324.2005, 324.2030, 324.2035, 324.74101, 324.74102a, 324.74116, 324.74117, 324.74122, 324.74123, 324.78105, and 324.83106), sections 2005, 2030, and 2035 as added and sections 74101, 74122, 78105, and 83106 as amended by 2004 PA 587, section 74102a as amended by 2006 PA 307, sections 74116 and 74123 as added by 1995 PA 58, and section 74117 as amended by 2006 PA 477, and by adding sections 1911 and 2045; and to repeal acts and parts of acts.

House Bill No. 4678, entitled

A bill to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled "Michigan vehicle code," (MCL 257.1 to 257.923) by adding section 805.

Senator Birkholz was in the Chair.

Murdock Jemerson, representing the Citizens Committee for Michigan State Parks, and Dr. Charles Nelson, representing the Citizen Council for Michigan State Parks, testified in support of the bill package. Following their testimony, Mr. Jemerson and Dr. Nelson responded to questions from a Representative. Copies of their handouts are attached to the report-out-file for the bills.

Senate Basham entered the room.

Natural Resources Commissioner Hurley Coleman, Pastor of the World Outreach Campus of the Greater Coleman Temple Church of God in Christ, testified in support of the bills. Commissioner Coleman addressed questions from the joint committee members. A copy of his written testimony is attached to the report-out-file for the bills.

Dan Eichinger, Legislative Liaison for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and Ron Olson, Chief of State Parks Division of the Department of Natural Resources, testified in support of the bills. Chief Olson answered questions from various members of the joint committee.

Commissioner Mary Brown, on behalf of Keith Charters, Chair of the Michigan Natural Resource Commission, testified in support of the legislation. A copy of the Commissioner Charters letter is attached to the report-out-file for the bills.

Tom Ferguson, representing the Citizens Committee for Michigan State Parks, testified in support of the bills

Ron Groeneveld, representing the Friends of Pontiac Lake Recreation Area, testified in support of the legislation. A copy of his written testimony is attached to the report-out-file for the bills.

Ed Noyola, representing the County Road Association of Michigan, and David Worthams, representing the Michigan Municipal League, testified in opposition to the bills. Following their testimony, Mr. Noyola and Mr. Worthams responded to questions from joint committee members.

Mary Pitcher of Beulah, Michigan testified in support of the package. A copy of her written testimony is attached to the report-out-file for the bills.

Dennis Muchmore, representing the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, testified in support for the bills. Mr. Muchmore answered questions following his remarks. A copy of his written testimony is attached to the report-out-file for the bills.

Doug Novak, representing the Office of the Michigan Secretary of State, testified in opposition to the bills. Following his testimony, Mr. Novak addressed questions from the joint committee members.

James Fackler, representing the Office of the Michigan Secretary of State, submitted a testimony card in opposition to the bills, but did not wish to speak.

Dennis Schornack and Darrin Duisteman, representing the Michigan Recreation and Park Association, testified in support of the bill package. Mr. Schornack and Mr. Duisteman answered questions following their remarks. A copy of their written testimony is attached to the report-out-file for the bills.

Melva Parker, representing the Fort Custer Horse Friends Association, testified in support of the legislation. A copy of her written testimony is attached to the report-out-file for the bills.

Christopher Graham, representing the Michigan Environmental Council, and Chris Kolb, representing the Michigan Environmental Council, testified in support of the bills. A copy of Mr. Graham's written testimony is attached to the report-out-file for the bills.

The following individuals submitted testimony cards, but were unable to address the joint committee due to time restraints:

Willard Rose, representing the Kalamazoo Nature Center, in support;
Betsy Clark of Bath, Michigan, in support;
Dennis Holoway of Highland, Michigan, in support;
Fred Tyszka, representing the Friends of Pontiac Lake Recreation Area, in support;
Robert Hoffmeyer, representing the Highland Field Trial Grounds, in support;
Marne Smiley, representing the Michigan Mountain Biking Association, in support;
Michael Foote, representing the Michigan Horse Council, in support;
Millard Holton of Mason, Michigan, in support;
Nancy Krupiarz, representing the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance, in support;
Todd Scott, representing the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance, in support;
Bill Sheffer, representing MARVAC, indicating a neutral position on the bills;
Mike McDonald, representing Ingham County Parks, in support;
Gayle Miller, representing the Sierra Club, in support;
Jim Hendricks, representing the Citizens Committee for Michigan State Parks, in support;
Doug Roberts, representing the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, in opposition; and
Lisa Brush, representing the Stewardship Network, in support.

Senator Birkholz was in the Chair.

Senator Birkholz moved to excuse Senator Patterson from today's committee meeting.

Senator Van Woerkom supported the motion.

There being no objection, the motion prevailed by unanimous consent of the members present; the member was excused from the meeting.

There being no other business before the committee; the Senate Chair adjourned the Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee meeting; the time being 10: 00 a.m.

Representative Warren was in the Chair.

Representative Scripps moved to excuse Representative Elbi.

There being no objections the motion prevailed by unanimous consent; the Representative was excused from today's committee meeting.

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There being no other business before the committee; the House Chair adjourned the Great Lakes and Environment Committee meeting, the time being 10: 04 a.m.

Patricia L. Birkholz, Chair
Senate Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs

Rebekah Warren, Chair
House Standing Committee on Great Lakes and Environment

Joy A. E. Brewer, Committee Clerk

Date approved by the committee