

The Senate



SENATOR  
PATRICIA L. BIRKHOLOZ  
Chair

**Committee on Natural Resources  
and Environmental Affairs**

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Minutes of the Standing Committee  
on  
**Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs**

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Wednesday, December 2, 2009

3:00 p.m.

Room 110, Farnum Building

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

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Mikaela Buresch, Olivia Shepard and Allison Lord of Howell, Michigan led the members of the committee in the recital of the *Pledge of Allegiance to the flag*.

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The 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)**

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The Chair laid before the committee the minutes of November 12, 2009 as printed.

**Senator Van Woerkom moved to adopt the minutes of November 12, 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.**

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The Chair laid before the committee SB 939.

**Senate Bill No. 939, entitled**

A bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled "Natural resources and environmental protection act," by repealing part 433 (MCL 324.43301 to 324.43303).

Emily Carney, Chief of Staff for Senator McManus, the bill sponsor, explained the bill to committee members.

Daniel Eichinger, Legislative Liaison for the Department of Natural Resources, submitted a testimony card stating the department is neutral on the bill.

**Senator Van Woerkom moved to report Senate Bill 939 with the recommendation that the bill pass.**

**Senator Gleason 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 Birkholz, Van Woerkom, Basham and Gleason. (4/5)**

**Nays: None. (0)**

**Senator Van Woerkom moved that the committee further recommend that the bill be given immediate effect.**

**Senator Basham 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 Birkholz, Van Woerkom, Basham and Gleason, (4/5)**

**Nays: None. (0)**

The bill was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

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The Chair laid before the committee SB 904.

**Senate Bill No. 904, entitled**

A bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled "Natural resources and environmental protection act," by amending section 2511 (MCL 324.2511), as added by 2006 PA 146.

Senator Valde Garcia, the bill sponsor, explained the bill to committee members.

Mikaela Buresch, Olivia Shepard and Allison Lord testified in support of the bill. Following their testimony, they responded to questions from committee members.

Kris Moffett, Sarah Storm and Alexia Nugent testified in support of the legislation. Ms. Moffett and Ms. Storm answered questions from the committee members following their testimony.

Nick Sioui and Jessica Barnes testified in support of the bill.

Millie Madden, fourth grade teacher from Hartland Village School, testified in support of the legislation.

The following individuals submitted testimony cards in support of the bill, but did not wish to testify:

Rachel Kisonosky, Hayes Middle School;

Alexis Seibold, Hayes Middle School;

Kate McAuliffe, Legislative Consultant for the Intermediate School Districts; and

Nikki R. McCord, Legislative Advisor for the Department of Environmental Quality.

**Senator Gleason moved to report Senate Bill 904 with the recommendation that the bill pass. Senator Van Woerkom 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 Birkholz, Van Woerkom and Gleason. (3/5)**

**Nays: None. (0)**

**Senator Van Woerkom moved that the committee further recommend that the bill be given immediate effect.**

**Senator Gleason 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 Birkholz, Van Woerkom and Gleason, (3/5)**

**Nays: None. (0)**

The bill was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

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**Senator Van Woerkom moved to excuse Senator Patterson from today's committee meeting.**

**Senator Gleason 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 Birkholz, Van Woerkom and Gleason, (3/5)**

**Nays: None. (0)**

Senator Patterson was excused from the meeting.

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There being no other business before the committee; **Senator Van Woerkom moved to adjourn the meeting.**

**Senator Birkholz supported the motion.**

The motion prevailed, the time being 4:45 p.m.

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Patricia L. Birkholz, Chair

Senate Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs

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Joy A. E. Brewer, Committee Clerk

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Date approved by the committee