

## **Senate Committee on Commerce and Tourism**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Tourism was held Tuesday, March 16, 2009 at 2:30 p.m. in room 100 of the Farnum Building.

The meeting was called to order at 2:33 p.m.

Members present: Senators Allen, Nofs, Stamas and Hunter

Members excused: Senator Clarke

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Senator Allen called the meeting to order.

Senator Nofs moved to adopt the minutes from the meeting held Tuesday, March 9, 2010 with unanimous consent. Senator Stamas supported the motion. By unanimous consent, the minutes from the meeting were adopted.

Senator Allen laid before the committee for consideration House Bill 5555 S-3.

Ken Osborne explained the substitute to House Bill 5555, noting that the substitute adds language from the recently passed Senate Bill 1030. Mr. Osborne also explained that the S-3 substitute reflected conflict language that the Legislative Service Bureau had encountered with the enactment of Public Act 5 of 2010.

Andy Such, representing the Michigan Sustainable Energy Coalition, supported the bill and did not wish to testify.

Senator Stamas moved to adopt the substitute (S-3) to House Bill 5555. Senator Hunter supported the motion. By an affirmative vote of the majority of members serving, the substitute was adopted. Voting as follows:

Yeas: Senators Allen, Nofs, Stamas and Hunter (4/5)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Excused: Senator Clarke (1)

Senator Nofs moved that House Bill 5555 (S-3) be reported out of committee with the recommendation that the bill then pass. Senator Stamas 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 Allen, Nofs, Stamas and Hunter(4/5)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Excused: Senator Clarke (1)

Senator Hunter moved that House Bill 5555 (S-3) be given immediate effect. Senator Stamas 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 Allen, Nofs, Stamas and Hunter (4/5)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Excused: Senator Clarke (1)

Senator Allen laid before the committee Senate Bill 1204 (Senator Allen).

Ken Osborne testified to explain the legislation. Mr. Osborne explained that the bill would allow Mackinac Island to levy a bed fee to support tourism.

Senator Hunter asked why Mackinac Island asked to be a special charter, which is excluded from the Community Convention or Tourism Marketing Act. Senator Allen informed Senator Hunter that Dan Musser, President of the Grand Hotel, would answer that question when he testified.

Ken Hayward, representing the Grand Hotel-Travel Commission, supported the legislation and did not wish to testify.

Todd V. Callewaert, representing the Island House Hotel, supported the legislation and did not wish to testify.

Bob Benser, representing the Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau and the Chippewa Hotel, supported the legislation and did not wish to testify.

Timothy G. Hygh supported the legislation and did not wish to testify.

Dan Musser, President of the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, testified in support of the legislation. Mr. Musser explained that Mackinac Island was granted the exemption as a special charter at a time when Mackinac Island did not feel the tax was necessary because of its short season and popular reputation. Mr. Musser explained further that with the struggling economy and increase in travel choices for consumers, Mackinac Island needs this exemption changed in order to market itself in the region.

Senator Nofs moved that Senate Bill 1204 be reported out of committee with the recommendation that the bill then pass. Senator Hunter 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 Allen, Nofs, Stamas and Hunter(4/5)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Excused: Senator Clarke (1)

Senator Hunter moved that Senate Bill 1204 be given immediate effect. Senator Stamas 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 Allen, Nofs, Stamas and Hunter (4/5)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Excused: Senator Clarke (1)

Senator Allen asked Ken Osborne to give an overview of upcoming committee topics. Mr. Osborne explained that next week the committee would be discussing the Next Michigan Development Package.

Senator Allen adjourned the committee 2:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Lauren K. Michalak  
Committee Clerk

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Jason E. Allen  
Chairman

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Date Approved by Committee