

Senate Committee on Commerce and Tourism

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Tourism was held Wednesday, December 1, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 100 of the Farnum Building.

The meeting was called to order at 9:22 a.m.

Members present: Senators Allen, Nofs, Stamas, Clarke and Hunter

Members excused: None

Senator Allen called the meeting to order.

Senator Nofs moved to adopt the minutes from the meeting held November 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 House Bill 6251.

Representative Lahti and Scott MacInnes, City Manager for the City of Houghton, testified in support of the bill. Representative Lahti allowed Mr. MacInnes to explain the bill. Mr. MacInnes explained that the bill would amend the Downtown Development Authority to expand the circumstances under which a debt obligation may be refinanced and repaid. Mr. MacInnes stated that the Houghton DDA has two issues: its bond payment has increased from approximately \$100,000 to \$200,000, and that Michigan Technical University has purchased a building in the city which dropped tax revenues collected. Mr. MacInnes believes this bill would help their already successful downtown be even more so.

Senator Allen asked about how this bill addressed school tax capture. Bill Danhof, representing Miller Canfield, answered this question stating that no additional school tax capture would occur in the renegotiations of the bond payments, and that the city was satisfied with the limit put into place in the bill.

Senator Stamas remarked that Houghton has a lot to offer and that he was happy to help it grow further.

Larry Steckelberg, representing the Department of Treasury, was neutral on the bill and did not wish to testify.

Senator Stamas moved that House Bill 6251 be reported out of committee with the recommendation that the bill then pass. Senator Nofs 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 and Stamas (3/5)
Nays: none (0)
Pass: none (0)
Excused: Senators Clarke and Hunter (2)

Senator Nofs moved that House Bill 6251 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 and Stamas (3/5)
Nays: none (0)
Pass: none (0)
Excused: Senators Clarke and Hunter (2)

Senator Allen explained to the committee that it would stand in recess and was posted for tomorrow in the event that legislation needed to be moved out of committee.

Senator Allen recessed the committee at the call of the chair at 9:28 a.m.

Senator Allen adjourned committee from the floor of the Senate.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren K. Michalak
Committee Clerk

Jason E. Allen
Chairman

Date Approved by Committee