



**MEMBERS:**

SEN. TONYA SCHUITMAKER, MAJ. VICE CHAIR  
SEN. TORY ROCCA  
SEN. PATRICK COLBECK  
SEN. STEVEN BIEDA, MIN. VICE CHAIR

**THE SENATE**  
**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**SENATOR RICK JONES**  
**CHAIR**

915 FARNUM  
P.O. BOX 30036  
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7536  
PHONE: (517) 373-3447  
FAX: (517) 373-5849

**COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 28, 2015**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Judiciary was scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2015, at 3:00 p.m., in room 110 of the Farnum Building.

---

**The agenda summary is as follows:**

1. SB 251 (Proos) Courts; other; consent calendar for juveniles; create.
  2. SB 149 (Brandenburg) Torts; nonmedical malpractice; affidavit of merit; require for malpractice action against architect or professional engineer.
  3. SB 281 (Schuitmaker) Courts; district court; reallocation of portion of certain filing fees paid to the Wayne County retirement system for bailiffs in the thirty-sixth district court under certain circumstances; provide for.
  4. SB 270 (Jones) Probate; guardians and conservators; probate court jurisdiction over guardianship and conservatorship proceedings; clarify.
  5. SB 4 (Shirkey) Civil rights; religious discrimination; Michigan religious freedom restoration act; create.
- 

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. He instructed the Clerk to call the roll. At that time, the following members were present; Sen.(s) Jones, Schuitmaker, Rocca, Colbeck, and Bieda, a quorum was present.

The Chairman entertained a motion to adopt the minutes from April 21, 2015. Senator Schuitmaker so moved, and without objection the minutes were adopted.

The Chairman invited Senator Proos to give an overview of Senate Bill 251.

The following individuals testified before members to indicate their position on Senate Bill 251:

- Judge Thomas E. Nelson, Michigan Probate Judges Association – Support
- Vic Fitz, Prosecuting Attorneys Association – Support

The Chairman read in testimony cards from the following individuals for Senate Bill 251:

- Joseph Baumann, State Court Administrative Office – Neutral
- Bill Kandler, Michigan Probate Judges Association – Support
- Ben Bodkin, Michigan Association of Family Court Administrators – Support
- Cami Pendell, Michigan Judges Association – Oppose

The Chairman made a motion to adopt the S-1 substitute to Senate Bill 251.

Yeas: Sen.(s) Jones, Schuitmaker, Colbeck, Rocca and Bieda

Nays: None

The motion prevailed and the substitute was adopted.

The Chairman made a motion to report Senate Bill 251 S-1 to the floor with recommendation that it then pass.

Yeas: Sen.(s) Jones, Schuitmaker, Rocca, Colbeck and Bieda

Nays: None

The motion prevailed and the bill was reported.

The Chairman made a motion to recommend immediate effect for Senate Bill 251. Without objection immediate effect was recommended.

The Chairman invited Dan Papineau from Senator Brandenburg's office to give an overview of Senate Bill 149.

The following individuals testified before members to indicate their position on Senate Bill 149:

- Ron Brenke, American Council of Engineering Companies – Support
- Dennis King, American Institute of Architecture Michigan – Support
- David Bertram, Michigan State University – Oppose
- Craig Thompson, Citizen – Support
- Ben Tiseo, American Institute of Architecture Michigan – Support
- Janet Langlois, Building Owners and Managers Association – Oppose
- Matthew T. Smith, Association of General Contractors Michigan – Oppose

The Chairman read in testimony cards from the following individuals for Senate Bill 149:

- Nancy McClain, Michigan Society of Professional Engineers – Support
- Sean Bennett, Citizen – Oppose
- Mollee Neff, Michigan Society of Professional Surveyors – Support
- Bill Flory, Michigan Association for Justice – Neutral

The Chairman invited Senator Schuitmaker and Chief Judge Michael Talbot to give an overview of Senate Bill 281.

The Chairman read in testimony cards from the following individuals for Senate Bill 281:

- Joseph Baumann, State Court Administrative Office – Support

The Chairman made a motion to report Senate Bill 281 to the floor with recommendation that it then pass.

Yeas: Sen.(s) Jones, Schuitmaker, Rocca, Colbeck and Bieda

Nays: None

The motion prevailed and the bill was reported.

The Chairman made a motion to recommend immediate effect for Senate Bill 281. Without objection immediate effect was recommended.

The Chairman invited Senator Jones to give an overview of Senate Bill 270.

The following individuals testified before members to indicate their position on Senate Bill 270:

- Milton Mack, Michigan Probate Judges Association – Support
- Joseph Baumann, State Court Administrative Office – Neutral

The Chairman read in testimony cards from the following individuals for Senate Bill 270:

- Lisa Dedden Cooper and Sue Tumosa, AARP – Oppose

The Chairman made a motion to report Senate Bill 270 to the floor with recommendation that it then pass.

Yeas: Sen.(s) Jones, Schuitmaker, Rocca, Colbeck and Bieda

Nays: None

The motion prevailed and the bill was reported.

The Chairman made a motion to recommend immediate effect for Senate Bill 270. Without objection immediate effect was recommended.

The Chairman invited Senator Shirkey to give an overview of Senate Bill 4.

The following individuals testified before members to indicate their position on Senate Bill 4:

- Jami and Krista Contreras, Citizens – Oppose
- Sommer Foster, Equality Michigan – Oppose
- Todd Christensen, Citizen – Oppose

The Chairman read in testimony cards from the following individuals for Senate Bill 4:

Tom Hickson, Michigan Catholic Conference—Support

Dan Jarvis, Michigan Family Forum—Support

Ed Rivet, Right to Life of Michigan—Support

James Muffett, Citizens for Traditional Values—Support

Sean Bennett, a citizen—Support

Rodd Monts, ACLU of Michigan—Oppose

Kathy Hagenian, Michigan Coalition to End Domestic & Sexual Violence—Oppose

Amanda West, Planned Parenthood Advocacy of Michigan—Oppose  
Tanisha Sanders, Kellogg Company—Oppose  
Brad Williams, Detroit Regional Chamber—Oppose  
Jayne Locke, a citizen—Oppose  
Leslee Fritz, Department of Civil Rights—Oppose  
Marc Shaberman, Secular Coalition for Michigan—Oppose  
Christine Estreicher, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, US, LLC—Oppose  
Amy Hunter, a citizen—Oppose  
Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Regional Chamber—Oppose  
Robert Gordon, Church of Flying Spaghetti Monster—Oppose  
Jay Maddock, Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center—Oppose  
Ruth Moerdyk, Faith Alliance of Kalamazoo/Gay Lesbian Resource Center—Oppose  
Susan Grettenberger, National Association of Social Workers of Michigan—Oppose  
Angela Wilson, Trustee Meridian Township—Oppose  
Sam Ingot, a citizen—Oppose  
Mary Pollock, Michigan National Organization for Women—Oppose  
Matt Kovac, a citizen—Oppose  
Marissa Luna, a citizen—Oppose

The Chairman invited Senator Shirkey to give closing remarks.

Being no further business before the Committee, The Chairman adjourned the Senate Committee on Judiciary without objection at 4:59 p.m.

Date Adopted by Committee: 5/5/2015