



MICHIGAN
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
P.O. Box 30014
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7514

Minutes of the House Standing Committee
On
Oversight

Tuesday, February 18, 2014

3:30 p.m.

Room 326 House Office Building

The House Standing Committee on Oversight was called to order by Representative Tom McMillin, Chair.

The Clerk called the roll; members present were Representatives McMillin, Kelly, O'Brien, Leonard, Howrylak, Townsend, Robinson, and Phelps. (8/8)

Representative Kelly moved to adopt the minutes of February 11, 2014 as printed.

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

Chair McMillin laid the subject of the Open Meetings Act and the following bills before the committee:

HB 5193 (McMillin) Civil rights; open meetings; closed-door sessions for trial or settlement strategy; allow only if matter being discussed is currently being litigated.

HB 5194 (McMillin) Civil rights; open meetings; accountability for penalties for violating open meetings act; limit defenses.

Samantha Harkins from the Michigan Municipal League introduced Lori Grigg Bluhm, representing the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys and the City of Troy. Ms. Harkins and Ms. Grigg Bluhm testified in opposition to HB 5193 and HB 5194 as written. Ms. Grigg Bluhm suggested various changes to the bills and testified on the Open Meetings Act in general.

Herschel Fink, representing the Detroit Free Press and the Gannett Michigan News Organizations, testified in support of HB 5193 and HB 5194 and on general Open Meetings Act issues.

Robin Luce-Herrmann, attorney for the Michigan Press Association, testified on the Open Meetings Act.

Thomas Quasarano from the Attorney General's office testified before the committee on the Open Meetings Act.

Mr. Fink returned to answer further questions from committee members.

Deena Bosworth, representing the Michigan Association of Counties, submitted a card in opposition to HB 5193 and HB 5194 but did not wish to speak.

There being no other business before the committee, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned, the time being 4:45 p.m.

Tom McMillin, Chair
House Standing Committee on Oversight

Doug Simon, Committee Clerk

Date approved by the committee