



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

MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, March 25, 2015 10:30 a.m. Room 519 House Office Building, Lansing

Representative Lauwers, Chair, called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Representatives Lauwers, Cole, Franz, Glardon, Johnson, Outman, Rendon, Courser, B. Roberts, Sheppard, Vaupel, Brunner, Darany, Talabi, Driskell, LaVoy, Garrett.

Representative Cole made a motion to adopt the minutes of the meeting of March 18, 2015. No objections being offered, the minutes were accepted as presented.

Carl Bednarski, President of the Michigan Farm Bureau, introduced himself and briefly spoke to the Committee.

Phil Karson, representing the Michigan Cherry Marketing Institute introduced the National Cherry Queen, Chelsea Lajko and Trevor Tekock, Executive Director of the National Cherry Festival. Subsequent to remarks from Ms. Lajko, Mr. Karson provided a presentation to the Committee which included the following points: the Cherry Marketing Institute's priorities; tart cherry producing states; Michigan production and the U.S. supply of tart cherries; how a mechanical harvester works; a strategic roadmap; message pillars; the success of 2013/2014; and the North American marketing program.

The Chair laid the following bill before the Committee.

HB 4175 (Johnson) Torts; liability; liability of persons under equine activity liability act; limit to willful or wanton acts under certain circumstances.

Eugenie Eardley, representing the Michigan Association for Justice, spoke to the Committee in opposition to HB 4175.

Gabrielle Hume, representing Back Country Horseman and herself, spoke to the Committee in support of HB 4175.

Representative Driskell made a motion to amend HB 4175 as follows.

1. Amend page 1, line 2, after "sponsor" by striking out the comma and inserting **"OR"**.
2. Amend page 1, line 2, after "professional" by striking out the comma and "or another person".
3. Amend page 1, line 3, after "sponsor" by striking out the comma and inserting **"OR"**.

4. Amend page 1, line 3, after "professional" by striking out the comma and "or other person".
5. Amend page 2, line 10, after "sponsor" by striking out the comma and inserting "**OR**".
6. Amend page 2, line 10, after "professional" by striking out the comma and "or other person".

UNFAVORABLE ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Representatives Brunner, Darany, Talabi, Driskell, LaVoy. (5/17)

Nays: Representatives Lauwers, Cole, Franz, Glardon, Johnson, Outman, Rendon, Courser, B. Roberts, Sheppard, Vaupel, Garrett. (12/17)

Pass: None. (0/17) (5/12/0)

An insufficient number of members voting in the affirmative, the motion did not prevail.

Representative Johnson made a motion to report HB 4175 with recommendation.

FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Representatives Lauwers, Cole, Franz, Glardon, Johnson, Outman, Rendon, Courser, B. Roberts, Sheppard, Vaupel. (11/17)

Nays: Representatives Brunner, Darany, Talabi, Garrett. (4/17)

Pass: Representatives Driskell, LaVoy. (2/17) (11/4/2)

A sufficient number of members voting in the affirmative, the motion prevailed.

There being no additional business before the Committee, Chair Lauwers declared the meeting adjourned, the time being 11:52 a.m.

Representative Dan Lauwers, Chair

Catherine Petroskey, Committee Clerk (517) 373-8538