



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

Minutes of the House Standing Committee
on
Natural Resources

Tuesday, February 2, 2016 9:00 a.m. Room 326, House Office Building

The House Standing Committee on Natural Resources was called to order by Representative Andrea L. LaFontaine, Chair.

The Clerk called the roll; members present were **Representatives LaFontaine, Rendon, Forlini, Goike, Lyons, McBroom, Kivela, Smiley, and Plawecki. (9/9)**
The Clerk announced that a quorum was present.

The Chair laid before the committee the minutes of January 26, 2015 as printed.

Representative Rendon moved to adopt the minutes of January 26, 2015 as printed. There being no objection the motion prevailed by unanimous consent of the members present; the minutes were adopted as printed.

The Chair laid before the committee House Bill 5128.

HB 5128 (Rendon) Retirement; state employees; retired state employees to contract with department of natural resources for wildfire suppression; allow without losing retirement allowance.

Representative Rendon, the bill sponsor, explained the bill and then introduced Trevor VanDyke, Legislative Liaison and Policy Advisor for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, to provide further details on the bill. Questions followed.

The Chair laid before the committee House Bill 5255.

HB 5255 (Bumstead) Agriculture; aquaculture; prohibition of aquaculture in the Great Lakes; provide for.

Representative Bumstead, the bill sponsor, explained the bill. Questions and discussion followed.

Dan Eichinger, Executive Director for the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, testified in support of the bill. Questions and discussion followed. Copies of his handouts are attached.

Captain Dennis Grinold, Chair of the U.S. Commission Committee of Advisors to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, testified in support of the bill. Questions and discussion followed. A copy of his handout is attached.

Kent B. Herrick, President of the Aquaculture Research Corporation, testified in opposition to the bill. Questions followed. Copies of his written testimony and booklet are attached.

Desmond Berry, Manager of the Grand Traverse Band Natural Resources Department, testified in support of the bill. Questions followed. A copy of his written testimony is attached.

Dennis Eade, Executive Director of the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association, and Kenneth E. Merckle, President of the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association, testified in support of the bill. A copy of their handout is attached.

Dan Kimmel, Conservation Director for Michigan B.A.S.S. Nation, testified in support of the bill.

David Peterson, Vice-President for Conservation for the Great Lakes Council of the International Federation of Fly Fishers, testified in support of the bill. A copy of his written testimony is attached.

Sean Hammond, Deputy Policy Director for the Michigan Environmental Council, testified in support of the bill. A copy of his written testimony is attached.

Trevor VanDyke, Legislative Liaison and Policy Advisor for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, introduced Tammy Newcomb, Senior Water Policy Advisor and Fisheries Research Biologist in Executive Division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, who answered questions and filled out a testimony card stating the department has no position on this bill at this time.

The following submitted testimony cards in opposition to the bill, but did not wish to speak:

Rebecca Park, Legislative Counsel in the Government Relations Department of Michigan Farm Bureau: *

Traverse Connect and Venture North Funding; and
Joe Colyn, representing Originz. LLC.

*Written testimony attached.

The following individuals submitted testimony cards in support, but did not wish to speak:

Jack VanRhee, a member of the Hamilton Rod and Gun Club;

Frank Krist, Vice-President of the Hammond Bay Anglers Association;*

Liz Kirkwood, Executive Director for FLOW; *

Gregory Peck, representing the Battle Creek Steelheaders;

Kirstin Thomas, representing Michigan Trout Unlimited;

David D. Middleton, President of the Battle Creek Steelheaders: *

Jennifer McKay, Policy Specialist for the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council;*

Nate Drag, Watershed Project Coordinator for the Alliance for the Great Lakes;

Eric Braden, Metro-West Steelheaders Board Member;

Gale Frazee, member of the Metro-West Steelheaders;
Henry Nabors, Membership Director for the Metro-West Steelheaders;
Mike Berkowitz, Legislative and Political Director for the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter;
George Moroz, Tourism Industry Coalition of Michigan Board Member;
Joseph Allobelli;
Charlotte Jameson, Policy Manager Assistant for the Michigan League of Conservation

Voters;

Kara Cook, Policy Assistant, for the Michigan League of Conservation Voters;
Carol Moncrieff Rose, Chair of the Upper Black River Council; and
Kathryn L. Tierney, Attorney for the Bay Mills Indian Community. *

*Written testimony attached.

The following submitted written testimony, but did not wish to speak:

Marc Smith, Senior Policy Manager in the Great Lakes Regional Center for the National Wildlife Federation, supporting;

Dr. Bryan Burroughs, Executive Director for Michigan Trout Unlimited, supporting;

Matt Lubaway, member of Metro –West Steelheaders, supporting;

Vicki Schwab, Executive Director for Delta County Economic Development Alliance, opposing;

Robert Devine, President and Owner of Coldwater Fisheries, opposing; and

Dan Vogler, President of the Michigan Aquaculture Association, opposing.

The following individuals sent e-mails in support of the bill:

Tanner Henley of Jenison, MI;

Bonnie Price of Baldwin, MI;

Glenn Price of Baldwin, MI;

George Killat of Midland, MI;

Colleen Jenkins, representing Federation of Fly Fishers Great Lakes Council, Fly Girls of Michigan, and Michigan Fly Fishing Club;

Colton Braybrooks of Kalamazoo, MI;

Michael D. Moran of Mancelona, MI;

S. Ross Marouchoc, a member of Michigan Trout Unlimited;

Michael Kay of Midland, MI;

Brian Pitser, owner and a guide for The Northern Angler Fly Shop in Traverse City;

Al Timer of Fowlerville, MI;

Daniel Burton of Kalamazoo, MI;

David Neal of Ann Arbor, MI;

Darin J. Thompson of Farmington, MI;

David Truxall of Livonia, MI;

Keith Konvalinka of Kalamazoo, MI;

Mark A. Mulder of Grand Rapids, MI;

Thomas Brooks of Richland, MI;

John R. Haycock of Saint Louis, MI;

Thomas Brooks of Richland, MI;

Dennis O'Brien;

Mary Yurko, MD, of Grand Rapids, MI;

John and Kathy Keagle; and

Cully Maki of Houghton County.

Representative McBroom moved to excuse Representative Lyons from today's committee meeting.

There being no objection the motion prevailed by unanimous consent of the members present; the members were excused.

There being no other business before the committee; **Representative Goike moved to adjourn the meeting.**

The motion prevailed, the time being 10:32 a.m.

The Chair declared the Committee adjourned.

Andrea M. LaFontaine, Chair
House Standing Committee on Natural Resources

Joy Brewer, Committee Clerk

Date approved by the committee