



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

Minutes of the House Standing Committee
on
Natural Resources

Tuesday, May 5, 2015

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 March 17, 2015 as printed.

Representative Forlini moved to adopt the minutes of March 17, 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 Senate Bill 217.

SB 217 (Booher) Property tax; classification; reference to qualified forest in qualified agriculture definition; remove.

Senator Booher, the bill sponsor for Senate Bill 217, explained the bill to committee members. Senator Booher and his Legislative Director, Kara Butters, addressed questions.

Matt Blakely, Director of Policy & Legislative Affairs at the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, and Richard Harlow, Farmland Preservation Manager in the Resource Conservation Section in the Environmental Stewardship Division in the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, testified in support of the legislation. Questions and discussion.

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

Rebecca Park, Legislative Counsel in the Government Relations Division of Michigan Farm Bureau, and

Judy Augenstein, representing the Great Lakes Timber Professionals and the Michigan Association of Timbermen.

Further discussion followed with members providing examples to help clarify the bill.

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

The motion prevailed, the time being 9:24 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