



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

MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, October 11, 2017 10:30 a.m. Room 327 House Office Building, Lansing

Representative Barrett, Chair, called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Representatives Barrett, Alexander, Lauwers, Howell, Albert, Calley, Frederick, Elder, Brinks, Phelps, Sabo, Sneller.

Representative Alexander made a motion to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on September 27, 2017. No objections being offered, the minutes were accepted as presented.

Chair Barrett stated that the Committee would stand at ease, the time being 9:35 a.m.

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 9:37 a.m.

The Chair laid the following bill before the Committee.

HB 4940 (Canfield) Agriculture; associations and commissions; dry bean act; modify apportionment of districts and create a member at large.

Representative Frederick made a motion to report HB 4940 with recommendation.

FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Representatives Barrett, Alexander, Lauwers, Howell, Albert, Calley, Frederick, Elder, Brinks, Phelps, Sabo, Sneller. (12/12)

Nays: None. (0/12)

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

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

Stacy Byers, representing the Kent and Ingham County Preservation Programs, and Denny Heffron, representing the Kent County Preservation Program, provided a presentation for the Committee and reviewed the following topics: History of the Kent County Program; Farmland Preservation in Michigan; Across the State tours, county and township programs and dedicated funding source programs; Preserving Farmland is good for everyone; West Michigan's Agriculture Economy; Businesses Dependent on Agriculture; Michigan Turkey Producers; Where the Development Is; Keeping it in perspective; What is a Conservation Easement; Program Structure; Process and funding; Beginner Farmers; Master Planning in Townships; and Applications for farms wishing to be preserved.

Subsequent to the presentation and with no additional business before the Committee, Chair Barrett declared the Committee adjourned, the time being 11:36 a.m.

Representative Tom Barrett, Chair

Catherine Petroskey, Committee Clerk (517) 373-538