



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

Minutes of the House Standing Committee  
on  
Natural Resources

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Wednesday, March 14, 2018

9:00 a.m.

Room 326, House Office Building

The House Standing Committee on Natural Resources was called to order by Representative Gary Howell, Chair.

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The Clerk called the roll; members present were **Representatives Howell, LaFave, Maturen, Bellino, Rendon, VanderWall, Sowerby, Chang, and Cambensy. (9/9)**  
The Clerk announced that a quorum was present.

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The Chair laid before the committee the minutes of March 7, 2018 as printed.

**Representative Bellino moved to adopt the minutes of March 7, 2018, as printed. There being no objection the motion prevailed by unanimous consent of the members present; the minutes were adopted as printed.**

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The Chair laid before the committee House Bill 5321.

**HB 5321 (Cole)** Natural resources; wildlife; issuance of permit to sterilize game animals; prohibit.

Representative VanderWall, the Chair of the House Bill 5321 Subcommittee, gave a report to the House Standing Committee on Natural Resources. Questions followed.

Representative VanderWall offered a (H-1) substitute for House Bill 5321.

**Representative Rendon moved to adopt substitute (H-1) to House Bill 5321.**

**The motion prevailed by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members appointed to and serving on the committee, voting as follows:**

**Yeas: Representatives Howell, Maturen, Bellino, Rendon, VanderWall, Sowerby, Chang and Cambensy, (8/9)**

**Nays: None, (0/9)**

**Pass: Representative LaFave. (1/9)**

The substitute was adopted.

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The Chair laid before the committee Senate Bills 302 and 303 and House Bill 4475.

- SB 302 (Casperson)** Natural resources; land acquisition; caps on DNR land purchases; suspend if payments in lieu of taxes have not been made and revise DNR land management, acquisition, and disposal requirements.
- SB 303 (Booher)** Natural resources; funding; land exchange facilitation fund; authorize to be used for certain taxes and assessments on state land.
- HB 4475 (Howell)** Natural resources; land acquisition; cap on acreage in northern Michigan; remove, and approve strategic plan.

Trevor VanDyke, J.D., Director of the Legislative and Legal Affairs Office in the Executive Division in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, testified in support of Senate Bill 303, and stated the department is neutral on Senate Bill 302 and House Bill 4475. Questions followed.

Mike Thorman, representing the Michigan Hunting Dog Federation, testified in support of the bills.

Tom Frazier, Legislative Liaison for Michigan Townships Association, testified in support of the bills, and responded to a member's question.

The Chair introduced and welcomed three constituents, who live in his district, from Fostoria, Michigan: Ms. Jaetiana Taylor, Mr. Travis Miller, and Brenden Miller.

Sean Hammond, Deputy Policy Director for the Michigan Environmental Council, testified in opposition to the bills.

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

Deena Bosworth, Director of Governmental Affairs for the Michigan Association of Counties;

Gary Melow, Director of Michigan Biomass;

Jim Wale, representing Michigan State Coon Hunters;

Roger Thorman, Michigan State Fox Hunter;

Tim Dusterwinkel, President of the Michigan Bear Hunters Association;

Joe Hudson, representing the UP Bear Houndsmen; and

Tony Demboski, President of the Upper Peninsula Sportsmen's Alliance.

Richard Bowman, Director of Government Relations for The Nature Conservancy, submitted a testimony card in opposition to Sec. 2134 (4) (D) of Senate Bill 303 and neutral on the balance of

the bill, and is in opposition to Sec. 503 (11) of House Bill 4475 and neutral on the balance of the bill, but did not wish to speak.

Nicholas Occhipinti, Government Affairs Director Michigan League of Conservation Voters, submitted a testimony in opposition to the bills, but was not able to speak due to time restraints.

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

The motion prevailed, the time being 10:34 a.m.

The Chair declared the Committee adjourned.

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Gary Howell, Chair  
House Standing Committee on Natural Resources

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Joy Brewer, Committee Clerk

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Date approved by the committee