



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

Minutes of the House Standing Committee
on
Natural Resources

Wednesday, November 29, 2017 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.

The Chair laid before the committee the Speaker's appointment letter.

The Clerk read the following letter from the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Tom Leonard, to Gary L. Randall, Clerk of the Michigan House of Representatives:

November 30, 2017

Clerk Gary Randall
Michigan House of Representatives
Office 70 CB

Dear Clerk Randall,

This letter is to notify you that I am appointing Representative Sara Cambensy to the following committees:
Agriculture;
Local Government; and
Natural Resources.

Furthermore, due to these new appointments, the following changes will also be made:
Representative Winnie Brinks will no longer serve on the Committee on Agriculture;
Representative Terry Sabo will no longer serve on the Committee on Local Government; and
Representative Christine Greig will no longer serve on the Committee on Natural Resources.

Sincerely,

Tom Leonard
Speaker of the House.

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.

The Chair laid before the committee the minutes of November 29, 2017 as printed.

Representative Bellino moved to adopt the minutes of November 29, 2017, 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 409.

SB 409 (Casperson) Natural resources; Great Lakes; use of certain bottomlands for private harbors; provide for.

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

Liz Kirkwood, representing For Love of Water, and
Robert Gordon, Lead Lobbyist at the Michigan Capitol for the Sierra Club.

Sarah M. Howes, Legislative Liaison in the Executive Division of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, submitted a testimony card in support of the bill, but did not wish to speak.

Jim Olson, President and Founder of for Love of Water, submitted written testimony, which is attached.

Representative Rendon moved to report Senate Bill 409 without amendment and with the recommendation that the bill pass.

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, LaFave, Bellino, Rendon, VanderWall, and Cambensy, (6/9)

Nays: Representatives Maturen, Sowerby, and Chang. (3/9)

The bill was referred to the order of Second Reading of Bills.

The Chair laid before the committee House Bills 5001 and 5002.

HB 5001 (Rendon) Occupations; foresters; registration of foresters; provide for purposes of preparing management plan for tax-exempt qualified forest property.

HB 5002 (Rendon) Property tax; exemptions; qualified forest property; revise forester registration program citation.

Representative Rendon, the bill sponsor, explained the bill and introduced two of her constituents, Paul Drysdale and Tony Fox, who testified in support of the bill. Questions followed. Mr. Drysdale submitted written testimony, which is attached.

Trevor VanDyke, J.D., Director of the Legislative and Legal Affairs Office in the Executive Division in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and Brenda Haskill, Regional Forest

Marketing and Utilization Specialist in the Forest Resources Division in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, testified in support of the bill package. Questions followed.

Bernie Hubbard, Staff Forester for the Michigan Association of Timbermen, testified in support of the bills, and submitted written testimony, which is attached. Questions followed.

Trevor VanDyke, J.D., Director of the Legislative and Legal Affairs Office in the Executive Division in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, explained a section of the bill to the committee.

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

Judy Augenstein, representing the Great Lakes Timber Professionals;
Andrew Veemeesch, Associate Legislative Counsel in the Government Relations Department for Michigan Farm Bureau; and
Barbara J. Bennett, Fund Administrator for the Michigan Association for Timbermen Self Insurers Fund.

The following individuals submitted written testimony in support of the bills:

Rebecca Ensign, Woodlands Environmental Manager for Packaging Corporation of America;
Justin M. Miller, ACF, President of Green Timber Consulting Foresters, Incorporated;
Gerald Grossman, Grossman Forestry Company-Consulting Foresters;
Rexx Janowiak, ACF, RF, President of the Michigan Chapter of the Association of Consulting Foresters;
Warren Suchovsky, Suchovsky Logging, LLC, of Stephenson, Michigan; and
Andy Van Dyke, Michigan Society of American Foresters.

The Chair laid before the committee House Bill 5198.

HB 5198 (Allor) Natural resources; forests; agreements with other states and the federal government to provide assistance; allow for all hazard incidents.

Jesse Osmer, Legislative Aide for Representative Sue Allor, the bill sponsor, explained the bill.

Bill Forbush, President of the Northern Michigan Fire Chiefs Association, testified in support of the bill. Questions followed.

Trevor VanDyke, J.D., Director of the Legislative and Legal Affairs Office in the Executive Division in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and James Fisher, Manager of the Fire Management Section in the Forest Resources Division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, testified in support of the bill. Questions followed.

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

The motion prevailed, the time being 10:03 a.m.

The Chair declared the Committee adjourned.

Gary Howell, Chair
House Standing Committee on Natural Resources

Joy Brewer, Committee Clerk

Date approved by the committee