

DRAFT MINUTES

**HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON
Agriculture and Rural Development**

DATE: March 10, 2020

Chairman VanWoerkom called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Representatives VanWoerkom, Bollin, Albert, Green, Kennedy, Sabo, and Brixie were present.

Representative Bollin moved that the minutes of the March 3, 2020 meeting be approved; the motion was approved by voice vote without objection.

The subcommittee then heard testimony regarding an ongoing Michigan Seasonal Farm Worker Enumeration Profiles (Labor) Study. Testimony was provided by Dr. James Averill, State Veterinarian (MDARD); Lee Gonzales, Michigan Department of Civil Rights; Dale Flores Freeman, Migrant Affairs Director, Department of Health and Human Services; and Hector Arroyo, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity.

Among other things, the presentation described how the study originated through action of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission, and that the study differed from data available from federal sources. The total estimated cost of the study is currently \$260,000 provided by MDARD, \$60,000; Michigan Department of Civil Rights, \$75,000; Michigan DHHS, \$50,000; Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, \$40,000; and the Michigan Department of Education. [Note that study funding is not an FY 2020-21 MDARD budget request; MDARD's \$60,000 contribution was provided through a work project designation at the end of FY 2018-19.]

The study would be performed by a consultant contractor through a request for proposal process; the RFP has not yet been finalized and the contractor not yet selected. It was anticipated that the first year of the study would involve data collection, and the second year, data analysis and reporting. The study would be used by inter-agency task force to develop recommendations. The study would be available to the public. Written testimony and handouts are included in the official HFA minutes and is posted to the HFA website.

The subcommittee then heard testimony from Rebecca Park, representing Michigan Farm Bureau, on agricultural policy and budget issues. Ms. Park was joined by George Smith, PhD, Associate Director, MSU AgBioResearch; Associate Dean for Research, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Dr. Smith updated the subcommittee on the Michigan Alliance for Animal Agriculture research grant program. Dr. Smith's testimony is included in the official HFA minutes and is posted to the HFA website.

The subcommittee then heard testimony from Chuck Lippstreu, President, Michigan Agribusiness Association, on agricultural policy and budget issues.

Chair VanWoerkom adjourned the meeting at 10:30 AM without objection.

Minutes taken by William Hamilton, House Fiscal Agency
Approved: