



**MEMBERS:**

SEN. PHIL PAVLOV, VICE CHAIRMAN  
SEN. MIKE GREEN  
SEN. MIKE KOWALL  
SEN. ARLAN MEEKHOF  
SEN. REBEKAH WARREN, MINORITY VICE CHAIR  
SEN. MORRIS HOOD III

**THE SENATE**  
**COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,**  
**ENVIRONMENT AND GREAT LAKES**  
**SENATOR TOM CASPERSON**  
**CHAIRMAN**

705 FARNUM  
P.O. BOX 30036  
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7536  
PHONE: (517) 373-7840  
FAX: (517) 373-3932

**Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Environment and Great Lakes**  
**Minutes**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Environment and Great Lakes was held Thursday, January 31, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 210 of the Farnum Building.

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

Members present: Senators Caspersen, Pavlov, Green, Kowall, Meekhof, Warren, Hood

Members excused: none

---

Senator Caspersen called the meeting to order and led committee and audience members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adopt Minutes

SB 51	Sen. Booher	Property tax; classification; qualified forest property tax program; modify.
SB 52	Sen. Booher	Property tax; classification; qualified forest property; provide property tax exemption.
SB 53	Sen. Booher	Property tax; other; qualified forest property recapture tax; revise.
SB 54	Sen. Caspersen	Property tax; classification; allocation of qualified forest property recapture tax; modify.
SB 55	Sen. Green	Property tax; exemptions; definition of qualified agricultural property; revise.
SB 56	Sen. Booher	Natural resources; forests; private forest management; provide oversight from the department of agriculture and rural development and provide for conservation district assistance to owners of forestland.
SB 57	Sen. Meekhof	Agriculture; other; Michigan agriculture environmental assurance program; expand to include lands not utilized for traditional or production agriculture such as forest management.
SB 58	Sen. Moolenaar	Natural resources; forests; promotion of forestry and the development of the forest products industry in the state; provide for.
SB 59	Sen. Booher	Natural resources; forests; commercial forests; modify eligibility requirements for commercial forests and allow for withdrawal under certain circumstances.

Senator Meekhof moved to adopt the minutes from January 24, 2013 with unanimous consent. Without objection, the minutes were adopted.

Senator Casperson placed before the committee Senate Bills 51-59 (Sens. Booher, Casperson, Green, Meekhof, & Moolenaar). Senator Casperson announced that there were substitutes for all bills before the committee. Senator Booher explained the bill package and substitutes and answered questions from members.

The following people testified on Senate Bills 51-59 and answered questions from committee members:

- Debra Huff, Michigan Forest Association—Support (SB 53), Oppose (SB 51)

The following people submitted cards, but did not testify, on Senate Bills 51-59:

- Gerald Grossman, Grossman Forestry Company—Support (SB 53), Oppose (SB 51 & 56)
- Lori Phalen, Michigan Association of Conservation Districts—Support (all bills)
- Judy Augenstein, Great Lakes Timber Professionals—Support (all bills)
- Judy Augenstein, Michigan Association of Timberment—Support (all bills)

Senator Pavlov entered the committee room at 9:13 a.m.

Senator Green moved that the S-1 substitute be adopted to Senate Bill 51. The motion prevailed by an affirmative vote of the majority of the members appointed to and serving on the committee, voting as follows:

Yeas: Senators Casperson, Pavlov, Green, Kowall, Meekhof, Warren, Hood (7/7)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Absent: none (0)

Senator Pavlov moved that Senate Bill 51 (S-1) be reported out of committee with the recommendation that the bill then 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: Senators Casperson, Pavlov, Green, Kowall, Meekhof, Warren, Hood (7/7)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Absent: none (0)

Senator Green moved to recommend immediate effect for Senate Bill 51 (S-1). Without objection the committee further recommended that the bill be given immediate effect by unanimous consent.

Senator Meekhof moved that the S-2 substitute be adopted to Senate Bill 52. The motion prevailed by an affirmative vote of the majority of the members appointed to and serving on the committee, voting as follows:

Yeas: Senators Casperson, Pavlov, Green, Kowall, Meekhof, Warren, Hood (7/7)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Absent: none (0)

Senator Meekhof moved that Senate Bill 52 (S-2) be reported out of committee with the recommendation that the bill then 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: Senators Casperson, Pavlov, Green, Kowall, Meekhof, Warren, Hood (7/7)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Absent: none (0)

Senator Casperson moved to recommend immediate effect for Senate Bill 52 (S-2). Without objection the committee further recommended that the bill be given immediate effect by unanimous consent.

Senator Meekhof moved that the S-1 substitute be adopted to Senate Bill 53. The motion prevailed by an affirmative vote of the majority of the members appointed to and serving on the committee, voting as follows:

Yeas: Senators Casperson, Pavlov, Green, Kowall, Meekhof, Warren, Hood (7/7)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Absent: none (0)

Senator Green moved that Senate Bill 53 (S-1) be reported out of committee with the recommendation that the bill then 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: Senators Casperson, Pavlov, Green, Kowall, Meekhof, Warren, Hood (7/7)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Absent: none (0)

Senator Casperson moved to recommend immediate effect for Senate Bill 53 (S-1). Without objection the committee further recommended that the bill be given immediate effect by unanimous consent.

Senator Pavlov moved that the S-1 substitute be adopted to Senate Bill 54. The motion prevailed by an affirmative vote of the majority of the members appointed to and serving on the committee, voting as follows:

Yeas: Senators Casperson, Pavlov, Green, Kowall, Meekhof, Warren, Hood (7/7)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Absent: none (0)

Senator Green moved that Senate Bill 54 (S-1) be reported out of committee with the recommendation that the bill then 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: Senators Casperson, Pavlov, Green, Kowall, Meekhof, Warren, Hood (7/7)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Absent: none (0)

Senator Casperson moved to recommend immediate effect for Senate Bill 54 (S-1). Without objection the committee further recommended that the bill be given immediate effect by unanimous consent.

Senator Kowall moved that the S-1 substitute be adopted to Senate Bill 55. The motion prevailed by an affirmative vote of the majority of the members appointed to and serving on the committee, voting as follows:

Yeas: Senators Casperson, Pavlov, Green, Kowall, Meekhof, Warren, Hood (7/7)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Absent: none (0)

Senator Kowall moved that Senate Bill 55 (S-1) be reported out of committee with the recommendation that the bill then 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: Senators Casperson, Pavlov, Green, Kowall, Meekhof, Warren, Hood (7/7)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Absent: none (0)

Senator Casperson moved to recommend immediate effect for Senate Bill 55 (S-1). Without objection the committee further recommended that the bill be given immediate effect by unanimous consent.

Senator Kowall moved that the S-1 substitute be adopted to Senate Bill 56. The motion prevailed by an affirmative vote of the majority of the members appointed to and serving on the committee, voting as follows:

Yeas: Senators Casperson, Pavlov, Green, Kowall, Meekhof, Warren, Hood (7/7)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Absent: none (0)

Senator Pavlov moved that Senate Bill 56 (S-1) be reported out of committee with the recommendation that the bill then 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: Senators Casperson, Pavlov, Green, Kowall, Meekhof, Warren, Hood (7/7)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Absent: none (0)

Senator Casperson moved to recommend immediate effect for Senate Bill 56 (S-1). Without objection the committee further recommended that the bill be given immediate effect by unanimous consent.

Senator Green moved that the S-1 substitute be adopted to Senate Bill 57. The motion prevailed by an affirmative vote of the majority of the members appointed to and serving on the committee, voting as follows:

Yeas: Senators Casperson, Pavlov, Green, Kowall, Meekhof, Warren, Hood (7/7)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Absent: none (0)

Senator Kowall moved that Senate Bill 57 (S-1) be reported out of committee with the recommendation that the bill then 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: Senators Casperson, Pavlov, Green, Kowall, Meekhof, Warren, Hood (7/7)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Absent: none (0)

Senator Casperson moved to recommend immediate effect for Senate Bill 57 (S-1). Without objection the committee further recommended that the bill be given immediate effect by unanimous consent.

Senator Meekhof moved that the S-1 substitute be adopted to Senate Bill 58. The motion prevailed by an affirmative vote of the majority of the members appointed to and serving on the committee, voting as follows:

Yeas: Senators Casperson, Pavlov, Green, Kowall, Meekhof, Warren, Hood (7/7)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Absent: none (0)

Senator Kowall moved that Senate Bill 58 (S-1) be reported out of committee with the recommendation that the bill then 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: Senators Casperson, Pavlov, Green, Kowall, Meekhof, Warren, Hood (7/7)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Absent: none (0)

Senator Casperson moved to recommend immediate effect for Senate Bill 58 (S-1). Without objection the committee further recommended that the bill be given immediate effect by unanimous consent.

Senator Pavlov moved that the S-1 substitute be adopted to Senate Bill 59. The motion prevailed by an affirmative vote of the majority of the members appointed to and serving on the committee, voting as follows:

Yeas: Senators Casperson, Pavlov, Green, Kowall, Meekhof, Warren, Hood (7/7)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Absent: none (0)

Senator Pavlov moved that Senate Bill 59 (S-1) be reported out of committee with the recommendation that the bill then 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: Senators Casperson, Pavlov, Green, Kowall, Meekhof, Warren, Hood (7/7)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Absent: none (0)

Senator Casperson moved to recommend immediate effect for Senate Bill 59 (S-1). Without objection the committee further recommended that the bill be given immediate effect by unanimous consent.

Senator Casperson adjourned the committee at 9:27 a.m.

Date Approved by Committee: February 14, 2013

\*\*An audio recording of this committee meeting is available upon request for a minimal fee.