

## Minutes of the State Agricultural and Bioeconomy Committee

Thursday, October 29, 2009

9:00 a.m.

Room 110 Farnum Building

- Chairman Van Woerkom called the Committee to order at 9:05 a.m.
- Members Present: Van Woerkom, Gilbert, Birkholz and Gleason.
- Senator Gilbert moved to approve the minutes from September, 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009. His motion was supported by Senator Gilbert and approved unanimously.
- Chairman Van Woerkom described the package of bills SB 955-958 and their affect on the racing Commissioner.
- Chairman Van Woerkom invited Kendra Evert from Sen. Brown's office to explain SB 955-958.
- Kendra explained that the package of bills would abolish the Office of the Racing Commissioner and transfer the duties to the Department of Agriculture. She noted the work that Sen. Brown and the sponsors of the rest of the package did with the equine industry and racing industry.
- Chairman Van Woerkom thanked Sen. Brown for the efforts he has made to save the horse racing industry in Michigan
- Larry Julian from the MI Standardbred Breeders testified in support of the package of bills SB 955-958. He explained that if you are talking about animals and livestock than the Office of Racing Commissioner should be in the Department of Agriculture. He also described that the two functions of the racing commissioner are to promote and regulate. He does not see how the promotion can be done by the gaming industry.
- Chairman Van Woerkom noted that the racing industry being controlled by the Department of Agriculture becomes a matter of trust.
- Mr. Julian agreed and mentioned the strong relationship between the Department of Agriculture and FFA, 4-H and equestrian teams.
- Patti Dickinson and Deborah Arnold Miley from the Michigan Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association testified in support of the package of bills SB 955-958. They explained that as breeders they have a wonderful relationship with the Department of Agriculture and that is where they would like the Office of the Racing Commissioner.
- Val Vail-Shorey from Michigan Equine Partnership supported SB 955-958 but did not wish to speak.
- Joe Garcia from Hazel Park and Northville Downs supported SB 955-958 but did not wish to speak.
- Mickey Knight from MI Harness Horseman Association supported SB 955-958 but did not wish to speak.
- Mike Frederick from MI Thoroughbred supported SB 955-958 but did not wish to speak.
- Kevin McKinney from Great Lakes Quarter Horse Association and Mt. Pleasant Meadows supported SB 955-958 but did not wish to speak.
- Sen. Birkholz commented that she has concerns with in regards to the gambling and gaming but because of her support of the Michigan Equine she supports the package.

- Senator Gilbert moved to report SB 955 with recommendation. His motion was supported by Senator Birkholz and was approved by the following vote:  
 Yeas: Van Woerkom, Gilbert, Birkholz and Gleason  
 Neas: none  
 Pass: none
- Senator Gilbert moved to give SB 955 immediate effect. His motion was supported by Senator Birkholz and was approved by the following vote:  
 Yeas: Van Woerkom, Gilbert, Birkholz and Gleason  
 Neas: none  
 Pass: none
- Senator Gilbert moved to report SB 956 with recommendation. His motion was supported by Senator Birkholz and was approved by the following vote:  
 Yeas: Van Woerkom, Gilbert and Birkholz  
 Neas: none  
 Pass: Gleason
- Senator Gilbert moved to give SB 956 immediate effect. His motion was supported by Senator Birkholz and was approved by the following vote:  
 Yeas: Van Woerkom, Gilbert and Birkholz  
 Neas: none  
 Pass: Gleason
- Senator Gilbert moved to report SB 957 with recommendation. His motion was supported by Senator Birkholz and was approved by the following vote:  
 Yeas: Van Woerkom, Gilbert, Birkholz and Gleason  
 Neas: none  
 Pass: none
- Senator Gilbert moved to give SB 957 immediate effect. His motion was supported by Senator Birkholz and was approved by the following vote:  
 Yeas: Van Woerkom, Gilbert, Birkholz and Gleason  
 Neas: none  
 Pass: none
- Senator Gilbert moved to report SB 958 with recommendation. His motion was supported by Senator Birkholz and was approved by the following vote:  
 Yeas: Van Woerkom, Gilbert and Birkholz  
 Neas: none  
 Pass: Gleason
- Senator Gilbert moved to give SB 958 immediate effect. His motion was supported by Senator Birkholz and was approved by the following vote:  
 Yeas: Van Woerkom, Gilbert and Birkholz  
 Neas: none  
 Pass: Gleason
- Sen. Gleason motioned to excuse Sen. Whitmer.
- With no more business before the committee Senator Gleason motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 a.m.