

Minutes of the State Agricultural and Bioeconomy Committee

Thursday, March 25, 2010

9:00 a.m.

Room 110 Farnum Building

- Chairman Van Woerkom called the Committee to order at 9:06 a.m.
- Members Present: Van Woerkom, Gilbert, Birkholz, Gleason and Whitmer.
- Senator Gilbert moved to approve the minutes from March 18th, 2010. His motion was supported by Senator Birkholz and approved unanimously.
- Chairman Van Woerkom briefly described the Feral Swine package of bills SB 1136, 1137, 1138 (S-1) & HB 5822, 5823, 5824 and noted the need to stop non-native feral swine in Michigan. He explained the changes to SB 1138 (S-1) would make the substitute more like the House bills.
- Senator Gilbert moved to adopt SB 1138 (S-1). His motion was supported by Senator Birkholz and was approved by the following vote:
Yeas: Van Woerkom, Gilbert, Birkholz, and Whitmer
Neas: none
Pass: none
- Chairman Van Woerkom invited Representative Huckleberry and Representative Tyler to explain their bills before the committee. They agreed with Chairman Van Woerkom's description of the package and added that feral swine are an invasive species and the proposed legislation is needed to protect farms and livestock in Michigan.
- Dan Eichinger with the Michigan Department of natural Resources and Environment testified in support of the package of bills explaining the Department views feral swine as the terrestrial equivalent of Asian Carp and he requested the Senate to take action on this legislation as quickly as possible.
- Mary Kelpinski with the Michigan Pork Producers Association testified in support of the package of bills explaining her association represents 2000 producers and feral swine pose a threat to that industry.
- Al. W. Stinson with the Michigan Hunting Dog Federation and Michigan Association of Purebred Dogs testified in support of the package of bills explaining the destruction feral swine can to herbivorous and carnivorous species.
- Dave Nyberg of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs testified in support of the package of bills explaining his organization looks forward to working with the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Michigan Farm Bureau and Michigan AgriBiz to see what can be done about escaping facilities.
- Sen. Gleason asked who is documenting how many feral swine have been killed each year.
- Dan Eichinger explained that there currently was not a system of reporting, but he did commit to education public about reporting feral swine kills.
- Dr. Steve Halstead with the Michigan Department of Agriculture testified in support of the package and said he would be happy to look into issues raised regarding reporting.

- Tom Frazier with the Michigan Townships Association supported the package but did not wish to speak.
- Tonia Ritter with Michigan Farm Bureau supported the package but did not wish to speak.
- Senator Gilbert moved to report SB 1138 (S-1) with recommendation. His motion was supported by Senator Gleason and was approved by the following vote:
 Yeas: Van Woerkom, Gilbert, Birkholz, Gleason & Whitmer
 Neas: none
 Pass: none
- Senator Gilbert moved to give SB 1138 (S-1) immediate effect. His motion was supported by Sen. Gleason and was approved by the following vote:
 Yeas: Van Woerkom, Gilbert, Birkholz, Gleason & Whitmer
 Neas: none
 Pass: none
- Senator Gleason moved to report HB 5822 with recommendation. His motion was supported by Senator Whitmer and was approved by the following vote:
 Yeas: Van Woerkom, Gilbert, Birkholz, Gleason & Whitmer
 Neas: none
 Pass: none
- Senator Gleason moved to give HB 5822 immediate effect. His motion was supported by Sen. Whitmer and was approved by the following vote:
 Yeas: Van Woerkom, Gilbert, Birkholz, Gleason & Whitmer
 Neas: none
 Pass: none
- Senator Gilbert moved to report HB 5823 with recommendation. His motion was supported by Senator Gleason and was approved by the following vote:
 Yeas: Van Woerkom, Gilbert, Birkholz, Gleason & Whitmer
 Neas: none
 Pass: none
- Senator Gilbert moved to give HB 5823 immediate effect. His motion was supported by Sen. Gleason and was approved by the following vote:
 Yeas: Van Woerkom, Gilbert, Birkholz, Gleason & Whitmer
 Neas: none
 Pass: none
- With no more business before the committee Senator Gleason motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.