

Minutes of the State Agricultural and Bioeconomy Committee

Thursday, June 24, 2010

9:00 a.m.

Room 110 Farnum Building

- Chairman Van Woerkom called the Committee to order at 9:04 a.m.
- Members Present: Van Woerkom, Gilbert, Birkholz and Whitmer.
- Senator Gilbert moved to approve the minutes from June 10th, 2010. His motion was supported by Senator Whitmer and approved unanimously.
- Chairman Van Woerkom briefly described the grain dealer legislation SB 1396 & 1397. The chair explained that SB 1396 addressed the bonding issue and SB 1397 would allow money from the Farm Producers Insurance Fund help fund grain elevator inspection program.
- Nancy Nyquist and Jeff Haarer from the Michigan Department of Agriculture testified in support of SB 1397, but opposed SB 1396 on the basis that it created additional risk for the Farm Producers Insurance Fund.
- Chairman Van Woerkom mentioned that these bills were not a polished product yet and acknowledged there was more work to be done. The Chairman than thanked Jeff Cobb for helping to move these bills through the process.
- Tonia Ritter with the Michigan Farm Bureau testified in support of SB 1397 and explained that the Farm Bureau did not have a position on SB 1396. She assured the committee that Farm Bureau was willing to work on SB 1396 as it moves through the process.
- Jim Byrum with the Michigan Agribusiness Association Testified in support of both SB 1396 & 1397. He explained that the grain industry in Michigan is very healthy and every year the industry is paying more than has been returned since the 1970s.
- Senator Gilbert moved to report SB 1396 with recommendation. His motion was supported by Senator Birkholz and was approved by the following vote:
Yeas: Van Woerkom, Gilbert, Birkholz & Whitmer
Neas: none
Pass: none
- Senator Gleason moved to give SB 1396 immediate effect. His motion was supported by Sen. Birkholz and was approved by the following vote:
Yeas: Van Woerkom, Gilbert, Birkholz & Whitmer
Neas: none
Pass: none
- Senator Gilbert moved to report SB 1397 with recommendation. His motion was supported by Senator Birkholz and was approved by the following vote:
Yeas: Van Woerkom, Gilbert, Birkholz & Whitmer

Neas: none

Pass: none

- Senator Gleason moved to give SB 1397 immediate effect. His motion was supported by Sen. Birkholz and was approved by the following vote:
Yeas: Van Woerkom, Gilbert, Birkholz & Whitmer
Neas: none
Pass: none
- Chairman Van Woerkom moved to excuse Sen. Gleason.
- With no more business before the committee Senator Gilbert motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.