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THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON LOCAL, URBAN
AND STATE AFFAIRS

SENATOR
GERALD VAN WOERKOM
CHAIRMAN

Minutes of the Senate Local, Urban & State Affairs Committee
Tuesday, April 28, 2009
3:00 p.m.
Room 110 of the Farnum Building

Chairman Van Woerkom called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

Members present: Senators Van Woerkom, Birkholz, Gleason and Basham.

Senator Birkholz motioned to approve the minutes from April 21, 2009 and the motion was supported by Senator Basham. The minutes from April 21, 2009 were approved.

Chairman Van Woerkom invited Sen. Kahn to introduce Senate Bill 373.

Sen. Kahn spoke about the need to bring uniformity to assessment notices as well as ensure that residents were informed of their right to appeal.

Sen. Basham inquired about the cost to local units of government. Sen. Kahn responded there would be no additional costs, other than to those units with large amounts of preprinted notices on hand.

Sen. Birkholz questioned whether this would lead to the notice running onto a second page. Sen. Kahn replied that the bill only requires certain words to be in the largest print so reducing the size of other words should allow the notice to remain on one page.

Sen. Birkholz moved to adopt the S-1 Substitute for Senate Bill 373 with support from Sen. Gleason. The substitute was adopted 4-0.

Chairman Van Woerkom read the names of those who did not wish to speak on SB 373, but wished to have their opinion stated.

Those who were neutral on SB 373 were:

- Mickey Knight and Marilyn Plummer, Michigan Assessors Association.

Chairman Van Woerkom invited Bill Anderson, representing the Michigan Township Association, to testify on the bill. He spoke of the need to stay away from going onto a second page because of the increased costs. He also said there was not a lot of room to work with as much of the information is required by state statute.

Sen. Gleason asked if the bill was undoable. Mr. Anderson stated that the language might be too "wordy".

Chairman Van Woerkom invited Connie Burgess, representing Sen. Jelinek, as well as Jack Owens and Norman Caldwell representing the Indiana-Michigan Ad Hoc State Line Survey Commission to testify on Senate Bills 374 and 375.

Ms. Burgess spoke of the need for remonumentation of the Indiana-Michigan border. The remonumentation of the Ohio-Michigan border took place in 1915 and the remonumentation of the Wisconsin-Michigan borders was done in 1927.

Mr. Owens commented on the history of the border survey and the importance of the program as well as Indiana's commitment to the program.

Mr. Caldwell spoke on the process of remonumentation.

Chairman Van Woerkom questioned the role of GPS in the process and Mr. Owens said that this process would make future border questions easy to answer.

Ms. Burgess explained that the substitutes contained small technical changes and clarified that the funding will not come from county remonumentation funds.

Sen. Gleason questioned why funding could not come from the county funds. Ms. Burgess replied that because the border is a state line, funding must come from state sources and reiterated that the southern borders of counties on the state line would match up with state boundary.

Chairman Van Woerkom read the names of those who did not wish to speak on SB 374 & 375, but wished to have their opinion stated.

Those who supported SB 374 & 375 were:

- Roland Self and John Gunnie, Michigan Society of Professional Surveyors.
- Tom Martin, Michigan Department of Energy, Labor, and Economic Growth.

Senator Allen arrived at 3:39 p.m.

Sen. Birkholz moved to adopt the S-1 Substitute for Senate Bill 374 with support from Sen. Allen. The substitute was adopted 5-0.

Senator Birkholz moved to report out SB 374 (S-1) with support from Senator Allen. SB 374 passed favorably, 5-0. Senator Birkholz motioned to report out SB 374 (S-1) with immediate effect with support from Senator Allen. SB 374 (S-1) was reported favorably, 5-0, with immediate effect.

Sen. Birkholz moved to adopt the S-2 Substitute for Senate Bill 375 with support from Sen. Basham. The substitute was adopted 5-0.

Senator Allen moved to report out SB 375 (S-2) with support from Senator Birkholz. SB 375 passed favorably, 5-0. Senator Basham motioned to report out SB 375 (S-2) with immediate effect with support from Senator Gleason. SB 375 (S-2) was reported favorably, 5-0, with immediate effect.

Senator Allen moved to report out SB 373 (S-1) with support from Senator Gleason. SB 373 passed favorably, 5-0. Senator Gleason motioned to report out SB 373 (S-1) with immediate effect with support from Senator Birkholz. SB 373 (S-1) was reported favorably, 5-0, with immediate effect.

Senator Basham motioned for adjournment with no objection.

Chairman Van Woerkom adjourned the committee at 3:44 p.m.