

**Lunch + Legislation #16: What's Up With....
Testifying at a Committee Hearing (yes, you
can!)**



Mon. Feb. 7, 12:00pm, via Facebook Live



**Attorneys
for Animals**

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF ANIMAL ADVOCACY

Select Bill

- Important to you
- Do you have a story?
- Who is sponsor? Who is on committee?
- Support or Oppose?
- Any organizations involved (MH, HSUS)

Keep up to date

- Not much warning, can be 7 days or 1 day
- Sign up for Committee Updates

Be Prepared:

- House/Senate TV – link (live or archived)

Legislative Tracker™ updated most months, <https://www.attorneysforanimals.org/resources/>

Create Account @ MI Legislature website, [http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(yii2o1rnzxxoh0d1lwaps0h1\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=home](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(yii2o1rnzxxoh0d1lwaps0h1))/mileg.aspx?page=home)

House, Senate TV: <https://house.mi.gov/Calendar>, <https://cloud.castus.tv/vod/misenate?page=HOME>

Bill #	Description	Actions	AFA Action	Notes
SB 62	Amends construction code to exempt buildings used for "agricultural business" from certain regulations; Sen. Victory	1/26/2021 introduced, referred to Regulatory Reform	Oppose	
LSO, S1	Makes knowingly providing an animal to another individual who intends to abuse or mistreat the animal a 4-year felony; SB 51 revises sentencing guidelines; Sen. MacDonald (S), Wojno (S) (bi-partisan)	1/28/2021 introduced, referred to Judiciary	Support	Introduced because of Sterling, a 4 Board member of Macomb Co. per 2018 (SB 51), from last session (SB 51) # 146
SB 626	Further weakens Large Carnivore Act by removing restrictions for non-residents; Rep. Albert	2/9/2021 introduced, referred to Agriculture	Oppose	(HB 4860 last session, text in @ 146)

re.mi.gov/(S(yii2o1rnzxxoh0d1lwaps0h1))/mileg.aspx?page=home

Michigan Compiled Laws House: Adjourned until Tuesday Senate: Adjourned until Tuesday

Print Basket Notify Settings Layout Logout New! Help

Home Page Overview

Michigan Bill Search

Bill Number House bills begin with 4001, Senate bills begin with 1

Bill Content You can use a wild card, e.g., "limit*"

Select Category (2021-2022)

(For Example: Select 'food' to show related bills even if 'food' is not found in the text of the bill.)

Michigan Compiled Laws Search

MCL Section e.g., 2.14

MCL Content You can use a wild card, e.g., "limit*"

Legislative Activity

- Today's Calendars
- House Audio/Video
- Senate Audio/Video
- Recent Bill Activity
- Daily Intro/Passed/Enrolled

How do I...

- ...get notified when a bill status changes?
- ...find a Public Act?
- ...find a bill from a prior session?
- ...Find Ballot Proposals? (Related Links Page)
- ...get help when I can't find what I'm looking for?

Frequently Asked Questions

THE MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 101st Legislature

HOME INFORMATION MEMBERS LEGISLATION COMMITTEES EMPLOYMENT FINANCIALS

Video Archive

mm/dd/yyyy All Types

Agriculture | 1 Video

Appropriations | 2 Videos

Appropriations - Health and Human Services | 1 Video

Appropriations - School Aid and Department of Education | 1 Video

Commerce and Tourism | 2 Videos

Education | 1 Video

Elections and Ethics | 2 Videos

Energy | 1 Video

Families, Children, and Seniors | 2 Videos

Government Operations | 1 Video

Health Policy | 1 Video

Judiciary | 3 Videos

Michigan Senate

Michigan Senate

Live

Live Stream 1 0 watching now

Live Stream 2 0 watching now

Live Stream 3 0 watching now

Recent

Your Bill is Set for Hearing:

- *Go to Lansing or Zoom
 - * Know the Committee Clerk
 - * Make Sure Testimony Becomes Part of Committee Record
 - *Submit Written Testimony Only; or also Testify
-
-

Know the Committee Clerk

(S(yii2o1rmzxxoh0d1lwaps0hi))/mileg.aspx?page=mcommitteemeeting&objectname=dc432549b89144b694c6517a15819fde&meeting

MICHIGAN I

Michigan Compiled Laws Com
House: Adjourned until Tuesday,
Senate: Adjourned until Tuesday, F

[Print Basket](#) [Notify](#) [Settings](#) [Layout](#) [Logout](#) [New!](#) [Help](#)

Committee Meeting

Meetings by bodies of elected members delegated by the House or Senate to consider and make recommendations concerning the disposition of bills, resolutions, and other related matters referred to them. Committees are appointed by the Speaker of the House or the Senate Majority Leader and are organized according to subject matter.

Committee(s) Natural Resources

Chair Sen. Edward McBroom

Clerk Name Jackie Mosher

Clerk Phone 517.373.5312

Location Room 1300, Binsfeld Office Building, 201 Townsend Street, Lansing, MI 48933

Date Wednesday, 2/9/2022

Time 8:30 AM

Time Notes

Agenda [SB 563](#) (Sen. Kimberly A. LaSata) Recreation: outdoor activities; information on beach safety and anti-drown techniques; require municipalities to post on website.

[SB 813](#) (Sen. Sean McCann) Natural resources: inland lakes; actions ordered or taken by the department under certain emergency orders; provide for.

[HB 4242](#) (Rep. Julie Alexander) Natural resources: fishing; export of live minnows, wigglers, or crayfish as ba allow.

And any other business properly before the committee.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Senate Business Office by phone [(517) 373-1675] or email senbusinessoffice@senate.michigan.gov if requesting special services to effectively participate in the meeting.

Become Part of Record

Committee: _____ Date: _____

Bill#(s): _____

<p>Wish To Speak:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Support Bill <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose Bill <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral</p> <p>Time Needed: _____</p> <p>Please leave a copy of any prepared statement with the committee clerk.</p>
--

Name: _____

Representing: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____

CARD FOR LEGISLATIVE USE ONLY

Recreation

Members

Republican) District-82

kanen (Republican) District-110

rby (Democrat) District-31

Republican) District-108

Republican) District-81

man (Republican) District-94

(Republican) District-48

sy (Democrat) District-109

ish (Democrat) District-4

MEETING DETAILS

MINUTES ▾

TESTIMONY ▾

EMAIL SUBSCRIPTION

- 
- January 27, 2022 - SCR 7 - Nancy Warren
 - January 27, 2022 - SCR 7 - Olivia Lubig
 - January 27, 2022 - SCR 7 - Rosemary Plourde
 - January 27, 2022 - SCR 7 - Carrie Plummer
 - January 27, 2022 - SCR 7 - Scott Carter
 - January 27, 2022 - SCR 7 - Be Friedlander
 - January 27, 2022 - SCR 7 - Whitney Gravelle
 - January 27, 2022 - SCR 7 - Molly Tamulevich
 - January 27, 2022 - SCR 7 - Kevin Crupi
 - January 27, 2022 - SCR 7 - Jacqueline Winkowski
 - January 27, 2022 - SCR 7 - Jordon Hoover

Written Testimony: Formal or Informal

Hi Committee Clerk Molly Wingrove,

I am writing to urge the committee to **vote NO on SCR7**. The justifications for hunting wolves are not based on reputable scientific data. For example, [studies](#) have shown that hunting wolves does not decrease livestock depredation, non-lethal methods of predator control (e.g. [fladry and guard dogs](#)) are more effective, and the general public support more humane methods of predator control.

Thank you,



49651 Shenando
Canton, MI 4818

January 27, 2022

Rep. Gary Howell
Chair, Natural Resources Committee
Michigan House

Via email, Molly Wingrove, mwingrove@house.mi.gov

Re: **Oppose SCR 0007, House Natural Resources Committee Meeting, January 2**

Dear Representative Howell, Resolution Sponsors, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. Attorneys for Animals, Inc. (AFA), non-profit and 501(c)(3) organization of legal professionals and animal advocates. The Board of Directors voted to oppose SCR 0007 which “urge[s] the Natural Resources (authorize, and the Department of Natural Resources to organize, wolf hunting and trap the state’s wolf management efforts beginning in 2021.”

AFA has a long history of opposing wolf hunting in this state and has spoken out again legislature, most recently during a hearing last February on an identical resolution in the Natural Resources Committee⁹; at several Natural Resources Commission meetings; a to the 2019 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) proposal that resulted in a Final November 3, 2020 removing gray wolves from Endangered Species Act protections and 4, 2021.¹⁰

I have been appointed on behalf of Attorneys for Animals, to the 6-person Wolf Manu Advisory Council (WMAC), to represent an animal advocacy organization.

This resolution was first introduced last February (as SR 0015, with identical wording within weeks of gray wolves being delisted by the federal government. By that time, I already announced it would update the 2015 Wolf Management Plan¹¹ by convening a Management Advisory Council, updating the Plan, and conducting a Public Attitude survey steps would take time and would not be completed in time for a fall 2021 hunting season.

The Resolution before you is dismissive of those plans¹², reaching its conclusion that a wolf hunt without benefit of updated science or recent public opinion¹³. Yet it recites mantra that “The law is clear that the commission should, to the greatest extent practical principles of sound scientific management in making decisions regarding the taking or providing neither sound scientific management principles, nor why it isn’t “practicabl

www.attorneysforanimals.org
info@attorneysforanimals.org

In the intervening time, the following have occurred – or are in process – which only make SCR 0007 more ill-timed and lacking in scientific rigor (in addition to being poor public policy and emphasizing politics over science). These are all worthy of consideration by this committee in determining whether to vote SCR 0007 from committee:

- The WMAC has had 6 monthly meetings to date (monthly from August through January) and will have its recommendations completed by June 2022. To assist in our work, the DNR staff has provided research and updates on, for example, the wolf population survey method; factors limiting deer abundance (concluding that wolves are not the main factor)¹⁴; and a Summary of Management Accomplishments for each of the 12 Strategic Goals and Objectives from the Plan.
- The DNR is in the process of updating science related to wolf management, with the “White Paper” to be available in March 2022
- The Public Attitude Survey¹⁵ was presented at the January 19, 2022, WMAC meeting in preliminary form; the DNR is seeking citizen input with its own survey of the general public through January 31, 2022¹⁶
- DNR predation data for 2021 shows a total of 12 events, with 14 animals killed¹⁷; however, 9 of the 12 occurred on the same farm, meaning that wolf predation occurred on 4 Upper Peninsula farms last year. Non-lethal methods were implemented in all but one case.¹⁸
- Research that indicates liberalized killing of wolves does not lead to decreased poaching¹⁹; with a study focusing on Michigan to be published soon (before the WMAC finishes its work)

The Resolution describes the 2015 Plan as “active and legitimate”²⁰ but ignores or is at odds with some of its major conclusions:

- The Plan does not call for a hunt²¹ or what it terms a “public wolf harvest for reasons other than managing wolf-related conflicts” but rather sets forth a 3-step process to determine its feasibility. This is far from what the Resolution’s supporters appear to believe, i.e., that the 2015 Plan provides the green light to the NRC to institute such a hunt.
- The Plan focuses on individual wolves or packs who are causing problems to livestock at a particular time; and in that case, calls for non-lethal methods to be used initially
- SCR 0007 relies on numbers to argue for a hunt; the Plan, on the other hand, does not set a maximum number²²
- Contains “Literature Cited” as separate section, with 11 pages of research; an integral part of the Plan, this Resolution would dispense with a literature review and update in a rush to have a hunt

As a result, the Resolution misunderstands or inaccurately represents the 2015 Plan in its haste to promote a hunt.

To put this resolution in a broader context, consider the USFWS rationale for removing gray wolves from Endangered Species Act protection (although we disagree with the decision). An important component for delisting was whether the states were capable of managing a species which

www.attorneysforanimals.org
info@attorneysforanimals.org

had so recently, and for so long, had been federally protected. Therefore, the Final Rule contains an extensive review of the existing Michigan’s Wolf Management Plan.²³

With regard to implementing a public harvest for recreational or utilitarian purposes, the Michigan Plan identifies the need to gather and evaluate biological and social information, including the biological effects and the public acceptability of a general wolf harvest.²⁴

However, with this Resolution, the Legislature seeks to interject its opinion that a wolf hunt should be authorized and organized post-haste and without further review or input. It does so without an understanding that sound science does in fact take into account social acceptability and public opinion; and contrary to the stated plans of the DNR and the assumptions of the USFWS.

We urge the Committee to not report SCR 0007.

Very Truly Yours,

Beatrice M. Friedlander, JD
President

⁹ <https://committees.senate.michigan.gov/testimony/2021-2022/Additional%20Written%20Testimony,%20N.R.%2002.24.21%20SR%2015.pdf>, pages 9-11 of 54; and as a member of a 20-organization coalition, <https://committees.senate.michigan.gov/testimony/2021-2022/Written%20Testimony%20Part%203%20N.R.%2002.24.21%20SR%2015.pdf>, page 1 of 4

¹⁰ <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/11/03/2020-24171/endangered-and-threatened-wildlife-and-plants-removing-the-gray-wolf-canis-lupus-from-the-list-of-102>

¹¹ https://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/wolf_management_plan_492568_7.pdf

¹² SCR 0007 as adopted by the Senate, at page 2, lines 20 to 27, “While we commend the department for beginning the process of updating this plan again and commend the Natural Resources Commission for setting a plan update deadline of the end of 2021, there is no statutory requirement or precedent to delay a 2021 wolf hunt while the plan is reviewed and updated. Neither is there a requirement for a statewide public attitude survey or study to occur prior to a hunting season”, <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2021-2022/concurrentresolutionadopted/Senate/pdf/2021-SACRS-0007.pdf>

¹³ Nor with any mention of the 2014 ballot proposals passed by a majority of Michigan voters who rejected a hunt

¹⁴ *Supra* note iv, page 2, line 28 through page 3, line 1

¹⁵ https://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/Factors_Deer_Up_738385_7.pdf, page 10: “This data shows that changes in the Upper Peninsula deer population are not primarily driven by wolf population levels or wolf predation. □ Wolf predation, winter weather, predation by other species, habitat quality, changes to deer harvest regulations, declining hunter numbers, and changes in timber harvest all play a combined role in changes to the deer population in the Upper Peninsula. □ Predation from wolves is simply one portion of what impacts our deer herd in the Upper Peninsula, they are not solely responsible for the variation.”

¹⁶ https://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/Ritey_January_746199_7.pdf

¹⁷ <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=h3D71Xc3rUKWauku9Hl0QAX0IXc2oZpmVZUirPcfhUNihGWFNKRURZRVH0STE2WFd0kxwVFBDRc4u>

¹⁸ 12 calves, 1 cow, 1 mini pony; total compensation paid = \$7635.01 (owner of mini pony declined payment); \$6590.51 was paid to farm with 9 events

www.attorneysforanimals.org
info@attorneysforanimals.org

⁹ In that case, 2 wolves were shot by predator hunters under permit, but predation continued at the farm with 9 events

¹⁰ Chapron G, Treves A. 2016. Blood does not buy goodwill: allowing culling increases poaching of a large carnivore. *Proc. R. Soc. B* 283: 20152939. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2015.2939>

¹¹ *Supra* note iv, page 2, line 19

¹² Wolf Management Plan, 2015, Sec. 6.12.2: “Although members of the Michigan Wolf Management Roundtable reached consensus on every other issue, they did not reach agreement on whether a regulated wolf hunting/trapping season should be provided in the absence of any need to reduce wolf-related conflicts”, page 68 of 101

¹³ *Supra*, Sec. 5.1.1, “This plan does not identify a target population size, nor does it establish an upper limit for the number of wolves in the State. As a result, public preferences regarding levels of positive and negative wolf-human interactions will strongly influence the extent to which wolf abundance and distribution exceed the minimum requirements for a viable population”, page 25 of 101. *See also* Sec. 6.7, “This plan does not identify a target population size, nor does it establish an upper limit for the number of wolves in this State”, page 44 of 101; *see also* Sec. 5.3.2, Effective Conflict Management: “Setting numeric goals for wolf abundance at large geographic scales (e.g., the entire State, the entire UP) may not be necessary or effective for addressing most wolf-related conflicts. Broadly based abundance goals may not reflect the unequal distribution of wolf habitat, human activity and the potential for positive and negative interactions in local areas. Moreover, wolf numbers alone do not necessarily predict the frequency of certain types of interactions”, page 29 of 101

¹⁴ Review of Michigan’s plan is found beginning at <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2020-24171/p-539>

¹⁵ <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2020-24171/p-558> (citation omitted)

www.attorneysforanimals.org
info@attorneysforanimals.org

CALL TO ACTION

- * Select a bill and follow it
- * Review Committee Meeting Video Archives (or view in real time)



Call to Action:

Thank You

Comments, questions, ideas for future episodes?

beefriedlander@attorneysforanimals.org

Missed an episode? [Check out our library.](#)

***Next Lunch + Legislation: Mon.,
Mar. 7, 2022, noon***

