

HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 225

A bill to create an agricultural tourism advisory commission;
to provide for its powers and duties; and to repeal acts and parts
of acts.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. As used in this act:

2 (a) "Agricultural tourism" means the practice of visiting an
3 agribusiness, horticultural, or agricultural operation, including,
4 but not limited to, a farm, orchard, or winery or a companion
5 animal or livestock show, for the purpose of recreation, education,
6 or active involvement in the operation, other than as a contractor
7 or employee of the operation.

8 (b) "Commission" means the agricultural tourism advisory
9 commission created in section 2.

1 (c) "Department" means the department of agriculture.

2 (d) "Director" means the director of the department.

3 Sec. 2. (1) The agricultural tourism advisory commission is
4 created within the department.

5 (2) The commission shall consist of the following members
6 appointed by the director:

7 (a) Four individuals representing agricultural tourism
8 enterprises.

9 (b) Two individuals representing, or from an association
10 representing, local units of government.

11 (c) One individual representing the travel Michigan division
12 of the Michigan economic development corporation.

13 (d) One individual representing a convention bureau, visitors
14 bureau, or chamber of commerce in a rural area.

15 (e) One individual representing the department.

16 (3) The members first appointed to the commission shall be
17 appointed within 60 days after the effective date of this act.

18 (4) Members of the commission shall serve for the life of the
19 commission.

20 (5) If a vacancy occurs on the commission, the director shall
21 make an appointment to fill the vacancy.

22 (6) A member of the commission may be removed by the director,
23 for incompetency, dereliction of duty, malfeasance, misfeasance, or
24 nonfeasance in office, or any other good cause.

25 Sec. 3. (1) The first meeting of the commission shall be
26 called by the director. At the first meeting, the commission shall
27 elect from among its members a chairperson and other officers as it

1 considers necessary or appropriate. After the first meeting, the
2 commission shall meet at least quarterly, or more frequently at the
3 call of the chairperson or if requested by 3 or more members.

4 (2) A majority of the members of the commission constitute a
5 quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of the
6 commission. A majority of the members present and serving are
7 required for official action of the commission.

8 (3) The business that the commission may perform shall be
9 conducted at a public meeting of the commission held in compliance
10 with the open meetings act, 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 to 15.275.

11 (4) A writing prepared, owned, used, in the possession of, or
12 retained by the commission in the performance of an official
13 function is subject to the freedom of information act, 1976 PA 442,
14 MCL 15.231 to 15.246.

15 (5) Members of the commission shall serve without
16 compensation. However, members of the commission may be reimbursed
17 for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance
18 of their official duties as members of the commission.

19 Sec. 4. The commission shall do all of the following:

20 (a) Not more than 2 years after the effective date of this
21 act, submit to the governor and the committees of the senate and
22 house of representatives with primary responsibility for
23 agriculture issues, tourism issues, and local zoning issues a
24 report that includes all of the following:

25 (i) A discussion of the effects of local zoning on agricultural
26 tourism.

27 (ii) Model local zoning ordinance provisions to promote

1 agricultural tourism.

2 (iii) Recommendations concerning the use of logo signage to
3 promote agricultural tourism.

4 (iv) Recommendations for other measures to promote and enhance
5 agricultural tourism.

6 (v) Other recommendations concerning agricultural tourism.

7 (b) Undertake studies for the purposes of the report required
8 under subdivision (a).

9 Sec. 5. This act is repealed effective 2 years after the
10 effective date of this act.