

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
54th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON FISH & GAME**

Call to Order: By **VICE CHAIRMAN AL BISHOP**, on January 17, 1995,
at 1:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Al Bishop, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Bruce D. Crippen (R)
Sen. William S. Crismore (R)
Sen. John R. Hertel (R)
Sen. Ken Miller (R)
Sen. Mike Sprague (R)
Sen. Gary Forrester (D)
Sen. Judy H. Jacobson (D)
Sen. Terry Klampe (D)
Sen. Bob Pipinich (D)

Members Excused: Chairman Ken Mesaros

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Andrea Merrill, Legislative Council
Serena Andrew, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing: None
Executive Action: SB 31, Tabled

{Tape: 1,; Side: A; Approx. Counter: ; Comments: .}

VICE CHAIRMAN AL BISHOP, SD #9, BILLINGS, stated that **SENATOR GAGE**, sponsor of SB 31, Use of a Crossbow by Certain Disabled Persons, did not plan to attend this meeting and would leave action on the bill to the committee's good judgment.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 31

Motion: SENATOR GARY FORRESTER, SD #8, BILLINGS, MOVED THE BILL.

SENATOR BOB PIPINICH, SD #29, MISSOULA, MOVED TO TABLE THE BILL.

VICE CHAIRMAN BISHOP said he would not entertain the motion to table and asked that the bill be discussed.

SENATOR FORRESTER RESCINDED HIS MOTION.

Discussion:

SENATOR MIKE SPRAGUE, SD #6, BILLINGS, commented his main concern is that the crossbow is a very powerful weapon. He has heard of an arrow from a crossbow going through a 4x4 fence post and didn't know of many guns that could do that. He isn't comfortable with this bill.

SENATOR WILLIAM CRISMORE, SD #41, LIBBY, stated that he was also opposed to the bill.

SENATOR JOHN HERTEL, SD #47, MOORE, said he thought a disabled person who could handle a crossbow could handle a high-powered weapon as easily, and wondered if that should be considered even if rifle season does start later than archery season.

SENATOR MILLER, SD #11, LAUREL, commented that disabled persons he has talked to want to experience life like everyone else and don't want to take advantage of the system. If they can use a compound bow or conventional equipment they don't want an advantage.

SENATOR JACOBSON, SD #18, BUTTE, remarked that the crossbow is a powerful weapon. Because hunters take part in archery season wearing camouflage-type clothing, it might not be a good idea to allow crossbows during that season no matter who is using them.

Motion/Vote: SENATOR FORRESTER moved to TABLE SB 31.

Vote: The motion to table SB 31 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

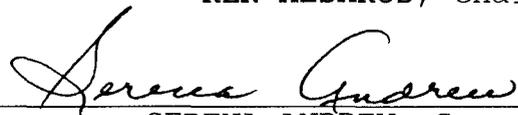
ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

(This session is recorded on side A of one 60-minute tape.)



KEN MESAROS, Chairman



SERENA ANDREW, Secretary

KM/sa

