

1/20/1977

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
HOUSE AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK & IRRIGATION COMMITTEE
MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 20, 1977
3:30 p.m.
Rm. 434
State Capitol Bldg.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairwoman Bengtson, with Chairman Day excused and Representative Jack Gunderson absent.

Representative Lien, chief sponsor of HB 152, was present to explain the bill. He stated that this bill was a request from the Department of Livestock and would amend out the five head exemption, now given, for change of ownership.

Mr. Ben Huckins, Department of Livestock, was present to testify as a proponent to HB 152. He explained that with the five head exemption it was possible for producers to sell four animals one day and return for several days after, selling four animals per day, to avoid having the cattle inspected. This bill would change the wording to coincide with the Animal Health Program, so that each animal sold had to be inspected for brands and marks, as well as for disease.

Charles Brown, Department of Livestock, testified as a proponent to HB 152. He explained that there were two important points to be made concerning this bill. 1) The bill was requested by the stock producers in the western part of the state, because of the disease in the milk cows that were being sold within the same counties. 2) It would help the department with its funding problem. He continued by explaining that 86% of their funding came from earmarked revenue funds and the rest came out of the fees charged. A large portion of their money is spent at the livestock markets. HB 152 will provide more protection so they will not have to spend as much at the market for inspections.

Representative Bengtson asked what the reaction of the people concerned was? In reply, the people in western Montana were the ones that asked to have the bill introduced. They felt that it would give them better protection for their dairy herds.

Representative Ellerd stated that the Department of Livestock had worked for almost two years on these various bills, with lots of background work done on them.

Representative Lien closed by saying that this bill was necessary to keep track of ownership and help control disease. Recommending a do pass consideration.

Chairman Day resumed the chair from Vice-Chairwoman Bengtson.

Representative Lien, chief sponsor of HB 153, testified that this bill was another brand inspection law that would require all cattle entering or leaving a commercial feed lot to be inspected. This had been a loop hole in the brand laws and needed closing, to protect the feed lot owner.

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Ben Huckins, Department of Livestock, testified that HB 153, was requested by the feed lot owners.

Les Pauly, Montana Stockgrowers Association, went on record as, being in favor of HB 152, and HB 153.

Representative Lien closed with a do pass recommendation.

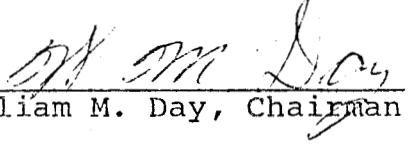
With no objection, Chairman Day announced executive action would be taken on HB 152, and HB 153.

Representative Johnston moved HB 152, do pass. It was seconded by Representative Staigmiller. The motion was passed unanimously.

Representative Severson moved HB 153, do pass. It was seconded by Representative Smith. The motion was passed unanimously.

Representative Johnston moved to adjourn. It was passed unanimously.

Adjourned at 4:15 p.m.


William M. Day, Chairman

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