

1/25/1977

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

January 25, 1977  
4:15 p.m.  
Rm. 434  
State Capitol Bldg.

Chairman Day called the meeting to order with all members present except, Representative Brand.

Representative Ellerd, chief sponsor of HB 172, and HB 240, explained that these two bills were identical bills except for the word, "and". He requested that the committee except HB 240, and eliminate HB 172. He continued to explain that HB 240, would amend the livestock auction market law by removing the requirement that markets pay at least 75% of the cost of livestock inspection services provided at the market by the Department of Livestock. The inspection services at the market have not been raised since 1953. This law has only been enforced one time since the law was passed. This bill would eliminate a law which has not been enforced.

Les Graham, Department of Livestock, was present to answer questions, but took no position on the bill, as a proponent or opponent. He stated that the law was not enforced by the department and he didn't feel that they could enforce it, or would enforce it in the future.

Representative Ellerd closed stating this has not been a problem up until the last few years and since it was not enforced, recommended a do pass consideration on HB 240.

Representative Gunderson raised some questions about HB 240. He asked how much the livestock inspectors were paid, at the market? The reply was 20¢ per head, coming in and 10¢ per head, going out. This money goes to the Department of Livestock. Representative Gunderson then asked why the department didn't oppose this bill if they were in as serious financial problem as they had stated previously? Mr. Graham replied that they didn't enforce the law, so there was no objection to omitting it. He then asked why they didn't enforce the law? The reply was that they could force some small markets out of business by enforcing this law, because they just didn't have the funds to pay the 75%.

Senator Graham, chief sponsor of SB 14, was present to explain the bill. He stated that this bill was the livestock recodification bill. The amendments that had been made to this bill were change in language and change in numbers, to figures, to coincide with the codes. The Senator explained that the Senate Agriculture committee had gone through the bill very thoroughly and found it to be only a complete language change, with no change in the meaning of the bill. Attached is an explanation of the changes made throughout the bill. Representative Staigmiller asked if the laws would have to be recodified again if we were to convert to the metric system? Dave Cogley, researcher, replied, yes. Dave continued to explain that a lot of the changes made, were changing, "the act" to "the chapter".

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Senator Graham, chief sponsor of SB 19, explained that this was the agriculture recodification bill, and the changes were of the same kind as in SB 14. He stated that Eldon Fastrup, Department of Agriculture, was a proponent to SB 19, but was unable to attend the hearing.

Representative Ellerd asked if executive action on HB 240, and HB 172, be postponed until Thursday, January 27, because he had too attend another hearing.

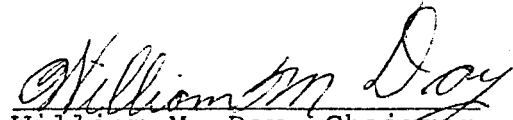
Representative Johnston moved SB 14, do pass. It was seconded by Representative McLane. The motion was passed unanimously.

Representative Conroy moved HB 19, do pass. It was seconded by Representative Staigmiller. The motion was passed unanimously.

Chairman Day asked if any members would like to carry the senate bills on the house floor when they came up for second reading. Representative Gunderson will carry SB 19, and Chairman Day will carry SB 14.

Representative Johnston moved to adjourn. The motion was passed unanimously.

Adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

  
William M. Day, Chairman

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