

FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE

January 25, 1977

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m., with all members present except Rep. Courtney, who was excused.

House Bill 256 was considered. Rep. Quilici, chief sponsor, said the bill fills a need for keeping track of wildlife in the hands of taxidermists. It will make sure that they keep records of permits and names of people who bring game trophies in to be mounted.

Wes Woodgerd submitted a prepared statement in support of the bill (attached). In answer to a question he said there is no way for the Department to differ between what a taxidermist has on hand now and what comes in after the bill is passed. It is impossible to write laws to close all the loopholes.

Senate Bill 15 was discussed next. Senator Warden, chief sponsor, submitted written testimony in support of the bill, which makes the cutthroat trout the state fish of Montana.

Arthur Whitney submitted a prepared statement in support of the bill (attached).

The Committee went into Executive Session to consider the bills.

Rep. Baeth moved that Senate Bill 15 BE CONCURRED IN. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Johnston will carry the bill on the floor.

Rep. Manuel moved that House Bill 256 DO PASS. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Rep. Baeth asked that the Committee hold House Bill 226 until Thursday. He is having amendments prepared. The Committee agreed to do so.

Committee members approved and signed a letter to Dr. Wambach about the fishing situation at Holter Lake. A copy is attached.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

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JOHN B. STAIGMILLER, Chairman