

FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE

February 1, 1977

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m., with all members present.

House Bill 181 was heard first. Rep. Ellerd, chief sponsor, said that the bill was submitted as a step toward improving relations between the farmer-rancher and sportsmen. He had some prepared amendments, which he submitted and explained to the Committee (attached). He said better representation on the Fish and Game Commission is needed.

Proponents were Rep. R. Budd Gould, Rep. Ed Lien, Bill Asher, Gordon Darlington, Ray Myers, Tag Rittel, Glen Childers, Greg Rusinyak and Ralph Holman. Their statements are attached. Opponents were Kevin Glaes, Phil Tawney, Robert O'Leary and Wes Woodgerd. Their statements are attached.

Rep. Ellerd closed by saying that there is a problem between sportsmen and landowners and he believes this bill is a step in the right direction toward solving it. He said he doesn't care if there are 5 or 7 members on the Commission, but one should be a landowner and one should represent outfitters and guides.

House Bill 339 was discussed next. Rep. Ellison, chief sponsor, said this bill gives 12-year-olds a chance to apply for a permit if they will be 12 by the time the big game season opens.

Proponents were Ray Myers, Bill Asher and Tag Rittel. Mr. Bob Bird, Fish and Game Department, opposed the bill. He said that there are administrative problems with the way it is presently written. The bill should state species rather than saying special permits. There is also a problem in that big game seasons sometimes open later than special seasons, and therefore the child might have a special permit before he is 12.

The Committee went into executive session to consider House Bill 268. Rep. Barrett moved that the bill DO NOT PASS. The motion passed unanimously.

JOHN B. STAIGMILLER, Chairman