

2/17/1977

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

February 17, 1977  
10:00 a.m.  
Rm. 434  
State Capitol Bldg.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Day, with all members present except, Representative Brand, excused.

Representative Dussault, chief sponsor of HB 342, explained that this was an appropriation bill allowing the Department of Livestock to pay the full appraised value of cattle being destroyed because of dangerous diseases, such as brucellosis. (attached is the fiscal note for HB 342)

Mr. Dale Patten, present as a proponent to HB 342, representing the 900 member Western Montana Stockmen's Association, stated that the state was being asked to fund the difference between the slaughter price and the appraisal price of cattle herds being depopulated because of brucellosis infection. The recent outbreak of brucellosis has been very difficult for the state veterinarians to clear up. Some herds have been quarantined for three years or longer. This would compensate the ranchers loss if his herd had to be destroyed. (prepared statement attached)

Mr. Roy McConkey, W.M.P.C.A., proponent to HB 342, stated that many of his clients were being forced out of business because of the financial loss they would have to take when their herds were destroyed because of brucellosis infection.

Mr. Paul Hanser, rancher, proponent to HB 342, stated other than the bad effect these diseases had on cattle, people could get undulant fever from the milk. Which is the same disease the cattle get when they get brucellosis. He urged the committees support.

Mr. Fred Desehamps, rancher, proponent to HB 342, stated that he had been quarantined for 2 years now with 200 cows infected with brucellosis. After two years I have 50 head still infected. If the state could give me a fair price I could eliminate the problem by them purchasing the herd without causing to much economic loss to the farmer.

Mr. Delas Robbins, rancher and proponent to HB 342, stated that his herd had been quarantined for 2 years and if this bill were passed the state would have enough money to eliminate the herd. The savings would be to the state and to the rancher. They would not have to continually have to retest, and if the state was allowed to purchase, at a fair price, the money being spent now for testing would be eliminated and the hardship on the rancher would be eliminated along with the infected herd. Eliminating some of the disease within the state. North Dakota has a similar system and is down to only one infected herd.

Mr. Robert Simons, Department of Livestock, proponent, stated the department helped draft this bill and realized the importance of HB 342. It can be a real asset if the state can see fit to fund it.

February 17, 1977

Minutes

page 2

Dr. Jim Glosser, Department of Livestock, veterinarian, proponent, stated the time of quarantine on the herds mentioned was true and in the Dakota's similar legislation was passed and in the last 15 years they are down to only one infected herd. With this bill the depopulation of 18 herds, out of 29 herds, could be eliminated.

Representative Dussault closed with a do pass recommendation.

Representative Conroy asked how many herds of the 18 were dairy and how many were beef? Dr. Glosser replied one dairy herd and 17 beef herds.

Representative Staigmiller asked if the meat from these cattle could be utilized. The reply was yes it could.

Representative Dussault, chief sponsor of HB 341, stated that this bill was a request from a number of persons. It would require Montana to adopt the federal standards of testing for brucellosis. She also proposed an amendment to the bill inserting material to include the card test and standard plate test.

Mr. Fred Desehamps, rancher and proponent to HB 341, stated if cattle were purchased out of state, which had been tested with the basic federal test and were okay, 30 days later the state testing might show signs of brucellosis and the herd would be quarantined. If the methods of testing were standardized this would not happen. He urged the committees support.

Mr. Delas Robbins, rancher and proponent to HB 341, stated that other states have the same requirements as the federal requirements so there is no reason why our state should have different forms of testing. He said that he had purchased 122 head of cattle in another state and after having passed those state tests, he brought them back to Montana he had to have them tested and 40 head showed to be either suspect or negative. Therefore he had to quarantine these cattle, taking a loss. Cattle that had been tested and showed sign and later tested and didn't show. He stated some of these additional tests must be worthless, after seeing this.

Other proponents to HB 341, were Royal McConkey, and Paul Hanser, both explaining similar situations concerning the testing of their cattle.

Dr. James W. Glosser, Veterinarian for the state, was present as a opponent to HB 341. He stated that he opposed this bill because he felt it was medically unsound to control testing. He stated that federal test was used but they also used additional tests. Montana has a more serious problem than other states may have and we feel any additional testing is to the benefit of all. The plate and card test do not show enough to be sufficient for this state. He urged the committee recommend a do not pass for HB 341.

Mr. Mons Teigen, Montana Stockgrowers Association, stated he was reluctant to oppose this bill but felt it was in the best interest

February 17, 1977

Minutes

Page 3

that he did. He felt that we must support the efforts made by the department to up-date their testing for brucellosis. I will support the animal health division in their attempts to rid Montana of brucellosis.

Representative Dussault closed by stating that Dr. Glosser suggested the standard method unsound and condemned the federal government but yet the state test have proven to be unsound in some cases. She closed with a do pass recommendation.

Representative Conroy stated that he could not understand why the gentlemen could be in favor of HB 342 to pay them for the infected herds and then support HB 341, objecting to a more complex method of testing for the disease.

Representative Bengtson, read the title of HB 669 concerning the transportation of cattle across a county line for grazing purposes to have a transportation permit used in lieu of a county line brand inspection. She then turned the explanation of the bill over to Les Graham, Department of Livestock.

Mr. Graham stated that this bill was not a department bill but they had assisted in writing it and would explain it to the committee. He stated that at the present time cattle could not be transported across a county line without an inspection, other than if driven on foot. This bill would allow a permit to be purchased for the purpose of transporting from one grazing pasture to another, in another county. This permit to be purchased for a period of six months for \$5, to allow transporting without inspection during this time.

Mr. Paul Hanser, proponent to HB 669, stated that the permit was a good deal for his area because some ranchers were simply ingnoring the inspection anyway.

Mr. Walter Morris, Snowline Grazing Association, proponent to HB 669 stated that only about 50% of the cattle are being inspected when being transported to the summer grazing areas and the others are paying. Recommended a do pass for HB 669.

Mr. Frank Balkovstz, rancher, stated that crossing a river was crossing a county line, and this required an inspection in his area. He didn't feel this was necessary when only going one mile. Recommended a do pass consideration.

Other proponents to HB 669 were Mons Teigen, Montana Stockgrowers Associaiton, Bill Asher, Agricultural Preservation Association, Representative Edward Lien, and Alice Frysle, Montana Cattlemen's Association, explaining similar situations concerning the crossing of county lines. All recommending a do pass consideration.

The committee went into executive session.

Representative Gunderson moved HB 148, be taken off the table. Representative Johnston seconded the motion. It was passed with one opposed.

February 17, 1977  
Minutes  
Page 4

Representative Gunderson moved HB 148, do pass. It was seconded by Representative Johnston. The motion was passed with one opposed.

Representative Gunderson explained to the committee that the committee bill drafted regarding HB 344 was not what he had in mind and asked the committee to consider a second committee bill which amounted to amending the present law requiring corporations to fill out an additional form.

Representative Gunderson moved the committee accept the second proposed bill as the committee bill. It was seconded by Representative Dassinger. The motion failed 7 to 6.

Representative Gunderson explained the committee bill that had been drafted would not do what he wanted accomplished and he didn't feel he could accept it, but asked the committee to consider the original amendments presented for HB 344.

Representative Gunderson moved HB 344, be amended as proposed. It was seconded by Representative Johnston. The motion was passed unanimously.

Representative Gunderson moved HB 344, do pass as amended. It was seconded by Representative Dassinger. The motion failed 8 to 5.

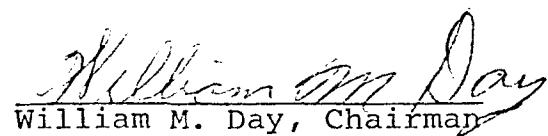
Representative Ellerd moved HB 344, do not pass as amended. It was seconded by Representative Johnston. The motion was passed 8 to 5.

Representative Johnston moved HB 669, do pass. It was seconded by Representative Staigmiller. The motion was passed unanimously.

Representative Conroy moved HB 342, do pass. It was seconded by Representative Curtiss. The motion passed with one opposed.

Representative Conroy moved HB 341, do not pass. It was seconded by Representative Staigmiller. The motion was passed with one opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

  
William M. Day, Chairman

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