

3/8/1977

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

March 8, 1977
10:10 a.m.
Rm. 434
State Capitol Bldg.

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

Senator McOmber, chief sponsor of SB 131, explained that this bill would change the election for commissioners of irrigation districts from the first Saturday in April to the first Tuesday in April. The changing of this date would conform with the school election date, which was changed by the legislature in 1974. It would make going to the poles more convenient for the voters.

Chairman Day asked if Senator McOmber would have any objections to changing the organizational meeting, which now follows the election, to include or at the next regular district meeting? The Senator had no objections.

Senator McOmber closed with a be concurred in recommendation.

Senator Turnage, chief sponsor of SB 373, explained that this bill would require testing of milk by the Department of Business Regulation to determine the value of raw milk. This would help the producers of milk determine the value of the milk. The only tests that are made for buttermilk content, to determine the value, is done by the processors.

Mr. Harry Mitchell, Montana Dairymens Association, Great Falls, was present in support of SB 373. He stated that his only concern was that the bill did not stipulate the section of the Milk Control Law that this bill was dealing with and he wanted to be sure that it was known as section 27-430.

Mr. Robert Lee, Montana Dairymens Association, producer, was present as a proponent to SB 373. He explained that this bill would give the other side an opportunity to test the buttermilk content over the processor. He stated that the Livestock Sanitary Board had discontinued this test.

Dave Cogley, staff attorney, assured Mr. Mitchell that the proper collation would be done on the bill.

Representative Severson asked if this was just a check on the processor? Mr. Kelly, Administrator of the Milk Control Board, replied that there was no one to check if there was a doubt about the processors test. This would assure the producer proper value.

The question arose concerning the cost and if all the milk would be tested or just if there were a complaint? Mr. Kelly explained that the testing would probably be done at the Animal Health Laboratory, to save money and still do an efficient test. The tests would be producer and plant checks, done by request. A form of

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trouble shooting and spot checking. Two additional testing machines would also need to be purchased.

Representative Staigmiller asked if the money would be funded from the Department of Livestock's budget? Mr. Kelly replied, that the funding would come from the producers themselves.

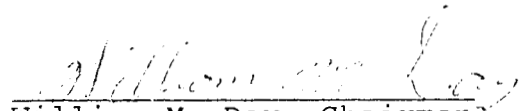
It was asked, why the language had been stricken in the title; "and quality of milk received by consumers." Mr. Kelly replied, that the Animal Health Division was already doing this test.

Representative Ellerd asked what would happen if the producer and processors tests were different, who would determine which was right? Representative Staigmiller stated that a private chemist would probably be hired and a possibility of the two going to court for final determination.

Representative Bengtson asked if the producers were in favor of this bill and why there were not more of them present to testify? Dave Cogley replied that there had been six producers and two processors at the hearing in the Senate committee. All the producers were in support of the bill and the processors didn't raise any objections.

The chairman announced that this bill would be held until next week so the members of the committee could do some research on it.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.


William M. Day, Chairman

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