

MINUTES  
FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE  
MONTANA STATE SENATE

January 31, 1977

The eighth meeting of the Fish and Game Committee was called to order by Chairman Dunkle at 8:00 A.M., in Room 405 of the State Capitol Building.

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

CONSIDERATION OF SB 123, an act to facilitate placement of wildlife on the Montana endangered species and species in need of management lists.

Chairman Dunkle requested that Mr. Wes Woodgerd of the Montana Fish and Game Department briefly explain the bill. Mr. Woodgerd spoke in support of the bill, saying it would require the Montana Fish and Game Department to make investigation on non-game wildlife, develop a list of species in need of management, and issue management regulations. He also stated it would require that the list may be amended only upon approval of the legislature. (Attachment #1)

At 8:20, after discerning there were no other proponents or opponents wishing to testify, Chairman Dunkle closed the discussion on SB 123.

CONSIDERATION OF SB 151, an act to revise fish and game statutes relating to hunting and fishing licenses by clarification of existing statutes, simplification of the license structure, inclusion and modification of certain definitions, and establishment of administrative fees.

Mr. Wes Woodgerd of the Fish and Game Department spoke concerning this bill. He said the intent of SB 151 was not to repeal. Senator Manley requested a printed amendment before any decisions are made on the bill. Senator Lowe mentioned there was a great similarity between this bill and SB 117. Senator Dunkle suggested that the committee combine the two bills.

Mr. Kevin Glaes, representing Trout Unlimited, testified his organization was in favor of the bill, if Section 26-234 were put back into it.

Mr. Glen Childers, representing the Garfield-McCone Legislative Association, testified, saying the present license structure offered in SB 151 is not, as a whole, compatible with the economy of eastern Montana and has created an adverse effect upon businessmen, as well as outfitters. He recommended amending the bill. (Attachment #2)

Mr. Ralph Holman, Legislative Chairman of the Montana Outfitters and Guides Association, spoke in favor of amending the bill. He wanted to delete entirely page 22, line 3 of the bill.

Chairman Dunkle asked if there were any other opponents or proponents who wished to testify on the bill. Since there were none, he opened the meeting to discussion. Mr. Woodgerd said it would be possible to issue nonresident deer licenses with a \$50 prerequisite and then ask \$50 for the license. He said low mule deer populations have caused the major problem. He also stated if a person were to buy a \$50 prerequisite and then apply for another license, \$49 of the \$50 would be refunded. Senator Dunkle stated that with the \$225 license, a person can hunt everything. Senator Dunkle mentioned the title of the bill would have to be changed, and that there is a bill presently in the House to reduce license fees.

Senator Warden wanted it noted and a matter of record that she supported the military personnel change on page 4, line 23 and page 5, line 3 of the bill.

Mr. Holman felt landowners should have the right to ask to see the license of anyone hunting on his property and that this should be included in the bill.

Senator Dunkle asked Mr. Woody Wright, Staff Attorney for the Fish and Game Department what part of the bill covered drawings. Mr. Wright said he would research the bill and report to Senator Dunkle on this matter.

Mr. Childers made a recommendation to eliminate the \$225 license. Senator Manley said he thought what Mr. Childers wanted to do was let the nonresident buy elk licenses without the combination licenses.

Senator Dunkle suggested that the Fish and Game Department put all of the amendments in order, in written form, before the committee makes any decision on SB 151. He asked Mr. Woodgerd to get together with Mr. Holman and other outfitters to discuss this before the committee took any action on it.

CONSIDERATION OF SB 177, an act for the general revision of laws relating to snowmobiles, and adding authorization for nonresident temporary-use permits.

Debbie Schmidt, Legislative Researcher with the Legislative Council, was asked by Senator Dunkle to go through the proposed amendments to the bill. This was done and Mrs. Schmidt stated that in Section 53-10153, Montana is reciprocal with all other states. (Proposed amendments - Attachment #3).

Senator Bergren said he didn't want the wording "record of title" changed to "certificate of ownership."

Senator Smith said he would prefer to review the amendments and discuss them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Dunkle announced that the committee preferred to review the proposed amendments and act on them at a later date.

ADJOURNMENT: Senator Dunkle adjourned the meeting at 9:20 A.M.

  
SENATOR FRANK DUNKLE, CHAIRMAN