

MINUTES

FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE

MONTANA STATE SENATE

March 9, 1977

The eighteenth 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, with the exception of Senator Lowe, who was excused.

CONSIDERATION OF HB 339, an act to permit persons who will have reached 12 years of age prior to the opening date of the hunting season to apply for and obtain permits for that season.

Representative Orval Ellison, Chief Sponsor of the bill, stated that all the intent is that children who would be 12 by the time the season opens may apply for permits. He said in talking with Mr. Wes Woodgerd of the Fish and Game Department, Mr. Woodgerd felt there might be a few problems with the way the bill is presently written and he would like to add a specific date to the bill.

Mr. Woodgerd said he agrees with what Representative Ellison is trying to accomplish. He said right now if a person wishes to apply for special permits, he must first have a hunting license, and you may not purchase a general hunting license unless you are 12 years of age or older. He suggested that on page 3, line 9, it be amended to say, "prior to September 15 of the season for which the license is issued."

Mr. Ralph Holman, Legislative Chairman of the Montana Outfitters and Guides Association, said his organization agrees wholeheartedly with the bill and supports it.

Senator Dunkle asked if there were any other proponents.

Representative Ellison said he concurs with Mr. Woodgerd's recommendation. He stated it was not his intention to lower the hunting age.

Senator Smith said he felt there was a great deal of difference in children within a span of five or six months.

He stated he had some reservations about allowing children to participate in the earlier seasons.

Representative Ellison said he has hunted with some people 40 years of age who are not competent to hunt, and that it is difficult to delineate age in this instance.

Senator Warden said there is no magic age when you can say a person is a safe hunter, but if children take and pass the Fish and Game Hunter Safety course, most of them are competent.

Senator Manley said his own father was shot in the leg by a 37-year-old hunting companion.

Representative Ellison asked Mr. Woodgerd on what date the earliest deer season began. He replied the earliest deer seasons in the back country begin on September 15.

Representative Ellison said he felt the way the law is presently on the books is discriminatory against youngsters.

Mr. Woodgerd wanted it noted that the permits will be for deer, elk and antelope only. They will not include moose, sheep and goats.

Senator Bergren made a motion to adopt Mr. Woodgerd's amendment. The motion was seconded by Senator Warden and carried unanimously.

DISPOSITION OF HB 339: Chairman Dunkle asked Mr. Woodgerd to work with Debbie Schmidt, Legislative Researcher, to get the amendment in order.

Senator Smith made a motion that HB 339, BE CONCURRED IN, AS AMENDED. The motion was seconded by Senator Manley and carried unanimously.

Senator Lensink agreed to carry the bill on the floor.

Senator Manley mentioned the fiscal note on HB 340; he questioned the \$208,000 figure shown as the amount set aside for snowmobile facilities by proposed legislation, saying it seemed high to him. Mr. Woodgerd said he would check with the Budget Director's office on this item.

ADJOURNMENT: Senator Smith made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 A.M., which was seconded by Senator Warden. The meeting was adjourned at that time.

  
SENATOR FRANK DUNKLE, CHAIRMAN

## ROLL CALL

**FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE**

45th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1977

Date 3-9-77

DATE

3-9-177

COMMITTEE ON

## FISH AND GAME

BILL NO. 339

## VISITOR'S REGISTER

NAME: Joseph Feldman DATE: 3-9-77

ADDRESS: McLeod Mont.

PHONE: 930-3359

REPRESENTING WHOM? Mont. outfitters & Guides Assoc.

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: H.B. 339

DO YOU: SUPPORT? ✓ AMEND? OPPOSE?

**COMMENTS:** \_\_\_\_\_

# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 9,

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MR. .... **PRESIDENT**..... line 16.

We, your committee on **FISH AND GAME**.....

having had under consideration..... **HOUSE**..... Bill No. **339**.....

....., BOUNDARY, line 22.

....., line 23 of

....., section 1, line 27.

....., line 40

Respectfully report as follows: That..... **HOUSE**..... Bill No. **339**.....

third reading bill, be amended as follows:

1. Amend title, line 5.

Following: "TO"

Strike: "THE OPENING DATE"

Insert: "SEPTEMBER 15"

2. Amend page 3, section 1, line 6.

Following: "to"

Insert: "September 15 of"

3. Amend page 4, section 1, line 24.

Following: "to"

Insert: "September 15 of"

4. Amend page 6, section 1, line 7.

Following: "to"

Insert: "September 15 of"

REASONABLE TIME

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House Bill 339, continued  
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5. Amend page 6, section 1, line 16.

Following: "to"

Insert: "September 15 of"

6. Amend page 7, section 1, line 7.

Following: "to"

Insert: "September 15 of"

7. Amend page 8, section 1, line 22.

Following: "to"

Insert: "September 15 of"

8. Amend page 12, section 1, line 17.

Following: "to"

Insert: "September 15 of"

Amendments, be amended as follows:

Page 6, line 6.

"to"

"the 15th day of

"September 15 of"

Page 8, section 1, line 8.

"to"

"September 15 of"

Page 12, section 1, line 16.

AND AS SO AMENDED, BE CONCURRED IN

Page 7, section 1, line 7.

"to"

"September 15 of"

**SENATOR FRANK DUNKLE, CHAIRMAN**