

HOUSE AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, AND IRRIGATION COMMITTEE

January 19, 1979

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Day at 1:30 p.m. with all members present except Representative Brand and Representative Jensen.

HOUSE BILL NO. 134

REPRESENTATIVE BURT HURWITZ, Chief Sponsor, introduced the bill. He stated that the bill was a request from the Montana Department of Livestock. We know of the scabies epidemic and the Department of Livestock wants to prevent scabies from coming into Montana. To do this they administer a dipping bath for each animal. House Bill No. 134 would allow the Department to charge a fee for this service.

PROPOSERS:

CHARLES BROWN, Department of Livestock, was present in support of the bill. He explained that the Department hoped that private individuals would do the actual testing and the Department would supervise this testing. In this case the individual would receive the fees allowed for in House Bill No. 134.

B. F. NEWCOMB, DVM, Department of Livestock, was present to answer any questions the committee might have.

REPRESENTATIVE HURWITZ, closed urging the committee to recommend a DO PASS.

HOUSE BILL NO. 144

REPRESENTATIVE BILL HAND, Chief Sponsor, opened the hearing by explaining that he felt this law should be changed to provide help for farmers using sprinkler systems. The farmers had no way of telling if the Mexican help they were using were aliens or not. They do not want to be subjected to the present penalty as in the statutes today.

PROPOSERS:

HAROLD BRIGGS, Briggs Ranch Inc., Dell Montana, explained that high school boys had been hired to move sprinkler pipes but because of the hours they had to work they did not stay with it long. The pipes have to be moved at 6:00 a.m., which takes 3 to 4 hours and then again at 6:30 p.m. for the same amount of time.

The Mexican laborers do a fine job, house themselves, feed themselves, and comply to the hours we need them. It is hard to tell if we are in violation of the alien law, when we hire these Mexicans. This bill would allow us to hire this help and not be subjected to the fines as stated in the present law.

W. L. STAUDENMEYER, Spring Creek Farms, and TED CHRISTIANSEN, Christiansen Cattle Company were also present as proponents and available for questions.

REPRESENTATIVE HAND closed the hearing giving some statistics on the number of Mexicans out of work. They are valuable to the farmers during

Minutes

January 19, 1979

Page 2

the irrigation period and I hope the committee will give this bill a DO PASS recommendation.

Questions were asked by the committee members. Some of the problems the committee asked about were why the farmers did not ask for social security cards from the Mexicans? The reply was that if they didn't have a card they would find a way to get one, not necessarily a legal one. Most farm labor was contracted leaving the social security payment up to the individual. When asked if anyone had been subject to a fine, the reply was no.

REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON recommended the committee look into repealing the present law or finding a way to exempt these farmers from the fine without the passage of House Bill No. 144. The reason being there may be problems involving other alien labor.

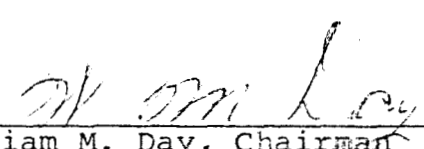
EXECUTIVE SESSION:

HOUSE BILL NO. 134

Representative Conroy moved, DO PASS. The motion was seconded by Representative Ellerd. The motion passed unanimously.

Representative Conroy moved, TO PUT ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR, it was seconded by Representative Schultz. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.



William M. Day, Chairman

Judy J. Mook, Secretary