

HOUSE AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, AND IRRIGATION COMMITTEE

February 16, 1979

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Day at 7:30 p.m. with all members present except Representatives Brand, Hand, and Jensen.

HOUSE BILL NO. 677

REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT ELLERD, Chief Sponsor, stated that this bill had resulted from some difficulties that had occurred. Since then the problems have been worked out and he requested the committee to, DO NOT PASS, HB 677.

HOUSE BILLS NO. 735, 736, 756

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN STAIGMILLER, Chief Sponsor, requested the committee consider all three of these bills together because they all related to the stealing of cattle, closing the loopholes in the laws.

House Bills 735 and 736 clarifies the definitions of a butcher, custom slaughter, livestock, meat peddler, and state stock inspector. It also allows for a state stock inspector or deputy state stock inspector for the inspection of butchered cattle. At the present time the law allows for the sheriff or deputy to do the inspecting. Years ago this was alright, but today the sheriff's and deputy's do not know as much about cattle inspection as they did years ago.

House Bill 756, requires preslaughter inspection of livestock at licensed livestock slaughter houses. He felt that this would eliminate some of the stealing that goes on. Sometimes the hides do not get inspected for days and it is hard to inspect them properly. This bill will make it unlawful to slaughter livestock at a licensed livestock slaughterhouse unless the livestock have been inspected for marks or brands by a state or deputy state stock inspector.

He concluded by stating that he is a state stock inspector and the passage of these bills would not increase or decrease the fees that he receives.

PROPOSERS:

CHARLES BROWN, Department of Livestock, stated that these bills were not department bills but were drawn up by the department and the Stock Dealers Association.

He proposed amending the title in HB 736, on line 5, by changing, "MARKETS" to "SLAUGHTERHOUSES."

They urged the passage of these bills and assured that they would help stop some of the cattle stealing that is going on.

MONS TEIGEN, Montana Stockgrowers and Montana Woolgrowers Associations, stated that it has been discovered that the Sheriff's Departments are not doing their job. They are not qualified to inspect cattle. They

usually give the lowest man on the staff the duty of the inspection. These bills will give the authority to the Department of Livestock which is where it should be.

ELMER D. HANSON, Montana Stockgrowers Association, stated that they were in favor of giving the Department of Livestock the authority to inspect, instead of the Sheriff's Office.

REPRESENTATIVE STAIGMILLER closed by stating that it would make the job of finding stolen cattle much easier if these bills were given a DO PASS.

Questions were asked by the committee and the hearing on HB's 735, 736, and 756 were closed.

#### HOUSE BILL NO. 700

REPRESENTATIVE VICKI JOHNSON, Chief Sponsor, introduced the bill by stating that it was a farm corporation recording act. This bill would require corporations engaged in agricultural production in this state to report; 1) that it is engaged in agricultural production, 2) the total amount of acreage used in the growing of crops or the keeping or feeding of poultry or livestock, 3) the acreage of such land in each county in which land is located, and 4) the names of shareholders owning 10% or more of the stock in the corporation.

She concluded stating that this bill would add about four sentences to the present report that the corporations already have to fill out.

#### PROPOSERS:

JACK GUNDERSON, Department of Agriculture, stated that he firmly believed that Montana needed legislation like this. We should know how much foreign investment there is in Montana, this would let us know. There is a problem in the U.S. because the U.S. Congress has passed a resolution trying to get a handle on the foreign investments in the U.S. This is a very simple bill and would only add four lines to the present report. I urge the committee to DO PASS.

JIM STEPHENS, Montana Farmers Union, rose in support of the bill and urged the committee's support. There is a need for the legislature to know about the foreign investments in Montana.

TOM TUCKER, Secretary of State's Office, appeared not as a proponent or opponent but to inform the committee of the views of their office.

All records in their office are available to the public. He questioned the constitutionality of requiring the recording of shareholders in a corporation.

REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON closed stating that she had looked into the laws after talking to Mr. Tucker and there appeared to be no constitutional problem.

She concluded by offering to answer questions.

Questions were asked by the committee and the hearing on HB 700 was closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

HOUSE BILL NO. 700

Representative Johnson moved, DO PASS.

Representative Roth made a substitute motion to, DO NOT PASS. The motion was carried 8 to 7. Opposed: Bengtson, Dassinger, Day, Ernst, Hirsch, Johnson, and Lien.

HOUSE BILL NO. 735

Representative Smith moved, DO PASS. The motion was carried unanimously.

HOUSE BILL NO. 736

Representative Lien moved, DO PASS. The motion was carried unanimously.

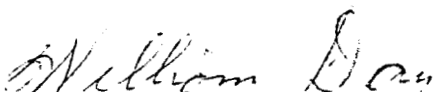
HOUSE BILL NO. 756

Representative Kanduch moved, DO PASS. The motion was carried unanimously.

HOUSE BILL NO. 677

Representative Lien moved, DO NOT PASS. The motion was carried unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

  
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William M. Day, Chairman

Judy J. Mook, Secretary