

February 20, 1979

The House Natural Resources Committee convened on February 20, 1979, at 7:30 p.m., in room 3 of the Capital Annex, with Chairman Sheldon presiding and eighteen members present (absent was Rep. Fagg). Chairman Sheldon opened the meeting to a hearing on the following bill:

HOUSE BILL 875

REPRESENTATIVE JOE J. KANDUCH, Sr., District 89, the chief sponsor, said he sponsored this bill at the request of Dan Mizner. This deals with setting up a program to control Dutch Elm disease.

DAN MIZNER, League of Cities and Towns, said the disease has crept out from the east and is getting a foothold in our state. He felt this was the time to get on top of it before it spreads further into the state. He said their only means of control is eradication--they need to have a program to identify the diseased trees and eradicate them. He said there is no money in the bill--if the bill passes the Department of Agriculture will use their state forester and some other funds they have to get the mechanism set up. He said they might apply for funds in the future.

During questions Rep. Thoft asked if the MSU might be the ones to administer a program like this. Mr. Mizner felt the State Agricultural Office would be the best place.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

HOUSE BILL 875 Rep. Cooney moved do pass. Motion carried with Rep. Harper voting no and absent being Reps. Curtiss Iverson, Keedy and Fagg.

HOUSE BILL 312 Rep. Huennekens went through his suggested amendments, exhibit 1 of the minutes. He moved the amendments be adopted. The motion carried with Reps. Quilici and Curtiss voting no and absent being Reps. Scully, Fagg, Burnett. Rep. Huennekens then moved the bill as amended do pass. Rep. Keedy questioned the qualifications of the PSC to enter the environmental field--Rep. Huennekens said the only expertise on the DNR Board was Will Clark. They review the work of the DNRC and make their decision from it. Rep. Bertelsen said this is an entirely new area and he felt would be a mistake. Rep. Quilici felt it could lead to more bureaucracy and he said agencies weren't known for their ability to get along with each other. Rep. Huennekens said six states are using the PSC approach. He said the staff is already there. It's a new idea that is going to come. He felt the PSC Board being a full time board would have better results than a bunch of amateurs that can only put so much time into the hearings. Question was called and the motion failed with only Rep. Huennekens voting for and absent being Reps. Fagg and Scully. Rep. Metcalf then moved the bill do not pass and this motion carried with the vote reversed.

HOUSE BILL 792 Rep. Bertelsen said he felt the bill would eliminate the possibility of making individual and operating claims for damages. He moved the bill do not pass. Rep. Johnston said he had a vested interest. Rep. McBride said she liked what the bill was trying to do but felt it might force the oil companies to put wells further apart and might even eliminate some. Rep. Iverson felt it was only a minority of the landowners who did not have mineral rights so felt this would be a disservice to oil well holders and land holders. The question was called and the motion carried with Rep. Nathe voting no, Rep. Kessler abstaining and Rep. Scully absent.

HOUSE BILL 883 Chairman Sheldon said this bill had come back because we had passed it out as a committee bill and the bill is sponsored by Reps. Scully and Bardanouve. Rep. Quilici moved do pass. After committee discussion and since the bill had not been printed as yet so they were unable to look it over, Rep. Quilici withdrew his motion and Rep. Kessler moved the bill go out of committee without a committee recommendation. This motion carried unanimously with those present. Rep. Scully was absent. It was requested that the minutes mention the reason the bill was going out without recommendation was because of the press of time and the bill was not available for the study of the committee.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
ARTHUR H. SHELDEN, Chairman

Emelia A. Satre, Sec.