

HOUSE FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE

April 11, 1979

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Staigmiller at 9:30 a.m. with all members present except Representatives Johnson, Keedy, and Marks.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29

SENATOR TURNAGE, Chief Sponsor, introduced the bill. He stated that this resolution would direct the Fish and Game Commission to adopt a rule limiting the size of a hole an ice fisherman may cut in the ice. This bill may not appear to be an important one but this has become a problem. There are people falling through these holes and this resolution could be important in saving lives.

He stated that the Polson Outdoors Inc. has asked to have these holes regulated. They have had problems at Lake Mary Ronan and Flathead Lake. People are taking chainsaws and cutting holes as large as their ice houses. When these houses are removed and the snow drifts over the hole there is a good chance of someone falling into it. So far we do not know of anyone getting seriously hurt. After hearing this, at the clubs request, he introduced this resolution.

PROPOSERS:

FRANK S. STOCK, President, Polson Outdoors, Inc., stated that people are cutting large holes in the ice and after a freeze and snow storm you can not see where the holes were cut. We have asked the Fish and Game to do something, but they have not done anything yet. We urge your support of this resolution.

H.F. GREGG, Treasurer, Polson Outdoors, Inc., stated that they had talked to the Fish and Game Commission and they suggested we introduce legislation. He then explained an incident when he and a friend had been fishing and the next time they went out someone had cut a big hole in the ice and the snow had covered it, his friend had fallen into the hole. If he had not been right there his friend would have drowned.

He concluded stating this resolution was nothing but a safety measure and urged the committees support.

Questions were asked by the committee and the hearing on SJR 29 was closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29

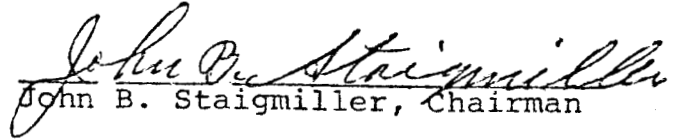
Representative Thoft moved, DO PASS. The motion was carried unanimously.

Minutes

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The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

  
John B. Staigmilller, Chairman

Judy J. Mook, Secretary