

AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND IRRIGATION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
MONTANA STATE SENATE

March 9, 1987

The meeting of the Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Committee was called to order by Chairman Paul Boylan at 1 p.m. in Room 413/415 of the Capitol.

ROLL CALL: All members of the committee were present.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 815: Rep. Marian Hanson, House District 100, introduced the bill at the request of the leaf-cutter bee industry to remove some of the mandatory portions of the bill. She did state, however, that there were some technical amendments needed.

PROPOSERS: T. Allen Whitmer of the Alfalfa Seed Growers Association, appeared as a proponent of the bill and explained the leaf-cutter bee to the members of the committee and the pests, predators and diseases that can affect the leaf-cutter bee industry. He said that the association feels the present law has become outdated as it was started in 1983. He also said that this is totally self-supporting and the money comes from the industry.

Gary L. Wiltse, also of the Alfalfa Seed Growers Association, appeared in support of the bill and asked for a favorable recommendation from the committee.

OPPONENTS: There were no opponents appearing to the bill.

COMMITTEE QUESTIONS ON HOUSE BILL NO. 815: Sen. Bengtson asked Mr. Whitmer what the opposition was to the bill within the association. Mr. Whitmer replied that it was a technical problem as the Association does not represent the entire industry. He said they sent out the proposal to everyone who has leaf-cutter bees and asked them to vote on it. They all did not support it. He also stated that approximately 60% of the leaf-cutter bee men belong to the Association. Sen. Bengtson asked why the people didn't like the bill. Mr. Whitmer said that some people just don't like the law and didn't want any regulation on bees at all.

Sen. Bengtson asked if bees are susceptible to diseases and what the lifespan is of a leaf-cutter bee. Mr. Whitmer replied that they are susceptible to diseases and that the lifespan is about six weeks. They coordinate the lifespan of the bee to coordinate with the alfalfa bloom.

Sen. Lybeck asked Ralph Peck of the Department of Agriculture if the fees are set by rule and the Board of Investments has the ability to invest that money, is there a fairly large fund. Mr. Peck replied that they have one employee working half time and the fund is barely maintaining itself. They are looking at having to raise the fees in order to maintain the services. He felt they have been able to provide some good services and have maintained

There followed a discussion on the fees. Mr. Peck said they are looking at increasing the sampling fee from \$20 to \$30 and the inspection fee from 26¢ to 30¢. He also explained how bees are weighed in answer to a question from Sen. Galt.

Dave Cogley explained the technical amendments that were required, a copy of which are attached to these minutes. The amendment to the statement of intent changes it from a mandatory rule to a discretionary rule and brings the statement of intent in compliance with the bill. Section 11 of the bill also was amended. (Exhibit #1)

Sen. Galt MOVED the amendments to HB 815, seconded by Sen. Kolstad. MOTION CARRIED.

Sen. Bengtson MOVED that HB 815 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Sen. Bengtson will carry the bill on the floor of the Senate.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 461: Rep. Dick Corne' of House District 77, introduced the bill on behalf of the Montana Beekeepers industry. He explained that there is a potential of an invasion from South American of the Africanized bee. This bill broadens the scope to deal with the invasion, as it eventually will. Many Montana bees are wintered in the south so the potential for mingling does exist. The bee industry is willing to increase their fees to pay for a large portion of the cost of administering the program.

PROPOSERS: Bob Barnes, Montana State Beekeepers Association, said that two years ago a tiny mite came in from Mexico which must be examined in a laboratory and the present law must be broadened to give the Department the authority for this testing. Africanized bees must be examined in a laboratory.

Ron Barnett, Montana State Beekeepers Association, also appeared in support of the bill.

OPPOSERS: There were no opposers present.

COMMITTEE QUESTIONS ON HOUSE BILL 471: Sen. Boylan remarked that it was his belief that the honey bee could not live in this climate. Mr. Barnes said that basically they are thought to be a temperate climate bee but it is not proven that they cannot live in this climate. The bee industry is afraid these Africanized bees will be brought to the north with bees that are purchased in the south.

Sen. Jergeson asked if the Africanized bees are dangerous to other bees or dangerous to humans. Mr. Barnes said the bees are aggressive and mean. A bee man would simply get rid of them and likened it to a rancher disposing of a mean cow. He also said that the first cross with the Africanized bee results in an increase in honey production but after that the production goes the other way.


Agriculture, Livestock & Irrigation
March 9, 1987
Page 3

He told the committee that these bees must be examined in a laboratory as they cannot be distinguished visually, and the differences are minute.

There being no further questions from the committee, Rep. Corne' closed and asked Sen. Boylan to carry the bill in the Senate.

Sen. Jergeson MOVED that HB 461 BE CONCURRED IN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.



PAUL R. BOYLAN, Chairman

ROLL CALL

AGRICULTURE

COMMITTEE

50th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1987

Date 3-9-87

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
ABRAMS, Hubert J.	/		
BENGTSON, Esther G.	/		
BECK, Tom	/		
JERGESON, Greg	/		
KOLSTAD, ALLEN C.	/		
LYBECK, Ray	/		
STORY, Peter R.			
THAYER, Gene	/		
GALT, Jack VICE CHAIRMAN	/		
BOYLAN, Paul CHAIRMAN	/		

Each day attach to minutes.

Amendments to HB 815 (3rd reading bill)

Amendments to Statement of Intent

1. Page 1, line 7.

Following: "agriculture"

Insert: "shall"

2. Page 1, line 8.

Following: "pathogens"

Strike: ", "

Insert: "and"

Following: "parasites"

Strike: ", "

Insert: "and may establish standards for"

Following: "predators"

Strike: ", "

Amendments to HB815

1. Page 10, lines 12 and 13.

Strike: "IS AUTHORIZED TO REDUCE THEIR"

Insert: "may reduce"

2. Page 10, line 15.

Strike: "Section 5 is"

Insert: "Sections 5 and 11 are"

3. Page 10, line 17.

Strike: "section 5"

Insert: "sections 5 and 11"

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 9

19 87

MR. PRESIDENT

We, your committee on..... AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND IRRIGATION

having had under consideration..... HOUSE BILL..... No. 815

THIRD reading copy (Blue)
color

REVISE ALPALPA LEAF-CUTTING BEE LAW

HANSON (Bengtson)

Respectfully report as follows: That... STATEMENT OF INTENT TO HOUSE BILL..... No. 815

be amended as follows:

1. Page 1, line 7.

Following: "agriculture"

Insert: "shall"

2. Page 1, line 8.

Following: "pathogens"

Strike: ", "

Insert: "and"

Following: "parasites"

Strike: ", "

Insert: "and may establish standards for"

Following: "predators"

Strike: ", "

AND AS AMENDED,
BE ADOPTED

~~DO PASS~~

~~DO NOT PASS~~

..... PAUL R. BOYLAN,

Chairman.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 9 19 67

MR. PRESIDENT

We, your committee on AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK & IRRIGATION
having had under consideration HOUSE BILL No. 915
THIRD reading copy (blue)
color

REVISE ALFALFA LEAF-CUTTING BEE LAW

HANSON (Bengtson)

Respectfully report as follows: That HOUSE BILL No. 915

be amended as follows:

1. Page 10, lines 12 and 13.
Strike: "IS AUTHORIZED TO REDUCE THEIR"
Insert: "may reduce"
2. Page 10, line 15.
Strike: "Section 5 is"
Insert: "Sections 5 and 11 are"
3. Page 10, line 17.
Strike: "section 5"
Insert: "sections 5 and 11"

AND AS AMENDED.
BE CONCURRED IN

~~XXXXXX~~
~~DO PASS~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
~~DO NOT PASS~~

PAUL R. ROYLAN,

Chairman.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 9 19 87

MR. PRESIDENT

We, your committee on AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK & IRRIGATION

having had under consideration HOUSE BILL No. 461

Third reading copy (blue)
color

REVISE APIARY LAW

COYNE (BOYLAN)

Respectfully report as follows: That HOUSE BILL No. 461

BE CONCURRED IN

~~DO PASS~~

~~DO NOT PASS~~

..... PAUL R. BOYLAN,
Chairman.