

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
55th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK & IRRIGATION

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN KEN MESAROS**, on February 19, 1997, at 3:10 p.m., in Room 413/415.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Kenneth "Ken" Mesaros, Chairman (R)
Sen. Ric Holden, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Thomas A. "Tom" Beck (R)
Sen. Gerry Devlin (R)
Sen. Don Hargrove (R)
Sen. Reiny Jabs (R)
Sen. Greg Jergeson (D)
Sen. Walter L. McNutt (R)
Sen. Linda J. Nelson (D)
Sen. Bill Wilson (D)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Doug Sternberg, Legislative Services Division
Angie Koehler, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: None
Executive Action: SB 217

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 217

Motion:

SEN. REINY JABS: MOTION TO TABLE SB 217.

Discussion:

VICE CHAIRMAN RIC HOLDEN: The critical element, when you're talking about harvesting buffalo, is that the Department of Agriculture has a plan to try to take care of this situation. They are negotiating with the federal government and Yellowstone National Park. At this point, it wouldn't be smart for us to open this up for public hunting until we resolve the bigger problem, which is *brucellosis* in Yellowstone Park. Once we get

that under control, then it may be okay to look at the issue of public hunting of bison. Until then, it's critical that we let the Department proceed without hampering their negotiations.

CHAIRMAN MESAROS: I would comment that current law allows for public hunting in the future once they identify a disease free herd.

Vote:


MOTION CARRIES. SEN. GREG JERGESON VOTES NO.


Discussion:

CHAIRMAN MESAROS: SB 217 is TABLED. Is there a desire by any member to revisit any of the bills that have been tabled? Seeing no desire to pursue any other bills that are tabled, we will close this Executive Action.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 3:13 p.m.


SEN. KEN MESAROS, Chairman


ANGIE KOEHLER, Secretary

KM/AK