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SENATE BILL NO. 249  
INTRODUCED BY MANLEY

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING AND AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF INSTITUTIONS, THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION, AND THE STATE PRISON WARDEN TO SELL THE STATE PRISON RANCH LOCATED IN POWELL COUNTY, MONTANA; ESTABLISHING A PROCEDURE THEREFORE; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Sale of state prison ranch. The department of institutions, the department of administration, and the state prison warden shall and they are hereby authorized to offer for sale at public auction the state prison ranch, together with all improvements thereon, located in Powell County, Montana. Such sale at public auction shall occur no later November 1, 1977.

Section 2. Procedure for sale of state prison ranch. The sale of the state prison ranch at public auction shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of 81-908, 81-909, 81-910, 81-912, 81-915, 81-917, 81-919, 81-920, 81-921 and 81-923 to 81-932, R.C.M. 1947; except that the department of institutions shall have the duties rights and responsibilities with respect to the sale of the state

prison ranch which are assigned to the department of state lands by those sections.  
Section 3. Effective date. This act is effective on its passage and approval.

-End-

STATE OF MONTANA

REQUEST NO. 534-77

FISCAL NOTE

Form BD-15

In compliance with a written request received February 10, 19 77, there is hereby submitted a Fiscal Note for Senate Bill 249 pursuant to Chapter 53, Laws of Montana, 1965 - Thirty-Ninth Legislative Assembly.

Background information used in developing this Fiscal Note is available from the Office of Budget and Program Planning, to members of the Legislature upon request.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

Senate Bill 249 is an act requiring and authorizing the sale of the prison ranch.

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. The various state institutions are budgeted to purchase food on the open market or from the ranch. The ranch furnishes products at 10% below market prices, but the institutions have to purchase a high proportion of beef. The existing food budgets at the institutions would be adequate to purchase food on the open market if some chicken and turkey were substituted for beef.
2. The meat and milk needed will be available on the open market.
3. Twenty state employees, who would be terminated, and 50 to 70 inmates are employed on the ranch.
4. Bed space can be provided in the prison for those inmates now housed on the ranch.
5. Since ranch operations are self-supporting, no reduction in operating costs to the state will be realized.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Revenue

Since the ranch was purchased from the General Fund, the proceeds of the sale would be deposited to the General Fund. It is impossible to estimate what the ranch would sell for, but it could be from four to seven million dollars.

Expenditures

Educational programs for the inmates currently employed on the ranch will cost an estimated \$40,000 per year. This cost would be an additional cost to the state.

LOCAL IMPACT:

Sale of the ranch would put it back on the tax roll in Powell County.

*Richard A. Dwyer*  
BUDGET DIRECTOR

Office of Budget and Program Planning

Date: 2-22-77