

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 24, 2015

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representatives McMillan, Batt, Bell, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, VanOrden, Burtenshaw, Kerby, Troy, Pence, Erpelding

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Frank Muir, Idaho Potato Commission; Jodie Ellis, Board of Veterinarians Medicine; Douglas Jones, Growers for Biotechnology; Pat Barclay, ICIF; Jim Lowe, Food Producers of Idaho; Boyd Foster, Idaho Potato Commission; Katrick Kole, Idaho Potato Commission; Elizabeth Criner, Simplot/NWFPA/FWAA; Brent Olmstead, Milk Producers of Idaho.

Chairman Andrus called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

Chairman Andrus introduced the new page, **Quintin Frederick** and welcomed him to the Agricultural Committee.

MOTION: **Rep. Erpelding** made a motion to approve the minutes of the Thursday, February 12, Monday, February 16, and Wednesday, February 18, 2015 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION: **Rep. Burtenshaw** made a motion for the Miller Subcommittee to approve the minutes of the Livestock Rules Subcommittee meeting of Tuesday January 20, 2015. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION: **Rep. Miller** made a motion to approve the Subcommittee Livestock minutes and Rules Report of the January 20, 2015 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION: **Rep. Batt** made a motion for the McMillan Subcommittee to accept the report and approve the minutes of the Crops Rules Subcommittee meeting of Tuesday January 20, 2015. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION: **Rep. McMillan** made a motion to approve the minutes of the Crops Subcommittee and the Subcommittee Rules report of January 20, 2015. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 23679: **Rep. Miller** stated the Memorial urges the US Congress and the Food and Drug Administration to establish a national policy on the labeling of foods containing genetically engineered ingredients. He said several states have already started this process and it made sense for labeling standards to be established by Congress and the FDA rather than individual states.

In response to committee question, **Douglas R. Jones**, Growers for Biotechnology, explained because the FDA has always been used for nutritional labeling, they were the ones chosen and given the responsibility for the labeling of foods containing GMO ingredients.

MOTION: **Rep. Dayley** made a motion to introduce **RS 23679** and recommend it be sent directly to the Second Reading Calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Erpelding** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Miller** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

RS 23663

Rep. Bell explained the Idaho Farm Bureau was organized 75 years ago on Sept. 15, 1939 in Murtaugh, Idaho by thirteen farmers and ranchers who saw a need for active representation promoting Idaho's agricultural industry. Idaho Farm Bureau dedicated members continue to direct the organization's grassroots policy development process to improve the financial well-being and quality of life for farmers and ranchers and all Idahoans.

Rep. Bell stated Idaho Farm Bureau provides and supports educational programs enabling Idaho farmers and ranchers to educate students and the general public about the importance of agriculture to the citizens of Idaho.

Rep. Bell said Idaho Farm Bureau has grown to be the largest general farm organization in our state and is comprised of 37 County Farm Bureau organizations with over 72,300 member families throughout Idaho and is known as "The Voice of Idaho Agriculture".

Rep. Bell stated as the members of the House of Representatives of the Sixty Third Idaho Legislature, we recognize and honor the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation for 75 years of accomplishments and service to Idaho agriculture.

Rep. Dayley invoked rule 38 stating a possible conflict of interest.

MOTION:

Rep. Romrell made a motion to introduce **RS 23663** and recommend it be sent directly to the Second Reading Calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Bell** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

RS 23689

Russ Hendricks, explained the potato farmers in eastern Idaho have borne the brunt of loses associated with Pale Cyst Nematode. The purpose of this proposed legislation is to request a refund from the Potato Commission for their assessment. He said two conditions must exist; The USDA must declare a portion of the state under quarantine because of the Pale Cyst Nematode and the condition can not apply to all of the state. He also stated the assessment can not be requested retroactive nor can they request the refund after leasing or purchasing any of these acreages.

In response to committee questions, **Mr. Hendricks** said this would involve about 12 - 15 growers and would cost the commission approximately \$500,000. He clarified the Idaho Potato Commission does not have the ability to give a refund of the assessment and therefore this has come before the committee to seek legislation to provide a way to refund the assessment to the farmers who wish to receive reimbursement. He stated as the Idaho Potato Commission was established at the request of the growers it seemed appropriate to ask for a refund for these particular growers who are experiencing financial hardship due to the quarantine put on their acreage.

In response to committee questions regarding what has been done thus far by the Idaho Potato Commission in behalf of these growers, **Frank Muir**, President of the Idaho Potato Commission, explained there has been federally funded monies and grants that have been used to help in research, treatment, and cleaning equipment for the 18 growers that are involved. He indicated there have also been grants from the State of Idaho and the University of Idaho to help eradicate the disease.

MOTION:

Rep. Romrell made a motion to return **RS 23689** to the sponsor.

Rep. Boyle stated she would like to see the Idaho Farm Bureau and the Idaho Potato Commission have more discussion on the issue and come together with a solution which could be done during a committee hearing.

**SUBSTITUTE
MOTION:**

Rep. Boyle made a substitute motion to introduce **RS 23689.** **Motion failed by voice vote.**

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION:

Chairman Andrus called for a vote on the original motion to return **RS 23689** to the sponsor. The **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Boyle** and **Rep. McMillan** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

H 73

Jodie Ellis, Executive Director of Veterinary Medicine, explained in 2013 the legislature approved a change to make application and certification fees nonrefundable to applicants for certification as a veterinary technician. The current statute requires the return of licensing fees to applicants for veterinary licensing, under certain circumstances. To eliminate this inconsistency between two similarly situated groups regulated by the Board of Veterinary Medicine, this proposed legislation amends Idaho Code to make both application and licensing fees for veterinary application nonrefundable, thereby treating the two groups the same. She said the surrounding states have also made application fees non-refundable.

MOTION:

Rep. Pence made a motion to send **H 73** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Pence** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Frank Muir, President of the Idaho Potato Commission, presented the Idaho Potato Commissions annual report. He stated the Idaho Legislature created the Idaho Potato Commission in 1937 to provide market development, production research and the promotion of potato growth in Idaho. The IPC is a self-governing state agency that receives the majority of its revenue through a potato tax, split 60% from the growers and 40% from the first handlers. The IPC has a total revenue in 2014 of \$14,814,712, which was \$672,809 less than 2013 due to 29,000 less acres harvested during the current year.

Mr. Muir spoke regarding the Potato Truck which has been to 48 of the 50 states. The campaign for Idaho Potatoes has been a great success and the commission will continue to fund this as a means for greater recognition of Idaho Potatoes.

Rep. Romrell complimented the Idaho Potato Commission on how effective they have been in promoting Idaho Potatoes.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Joan Majors
Secretary