

The Senate Agriculture, Veterans and Gaming Committee met on Monday, February 7, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 112, Capitol. The following members were present:

Vickerman Chair
Skoe, Vice Chair
Dille
Hann
Johnson, D.
Koering
Lourey
Murphy
Nienow
Rest
Solon
Wergin

Senators Day and Sams were absent.

Senator Skoe called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. and called on Senator Vickerman for S.F. 550, a bill extending the expiration date of the farmer-lender mediation program.

People testifying in support were:

Mary Preisler, Director, Farmer Lender Mediation Program, "See Attachment A."

She stated Minnesota is a leader for agriculture mediation. The University of Minnesota Extension Service operates the program out of its base funding with a significant matching grant from the USDA. As long as the federal matching grant continues, a line item appropriation for the program is not required for farmer-lender mediation to continue.

David Moeller, Staff Attorney, Farmers' Legal Action Group. Stated they are asking for the program to be extended for four years and the extension service is doing a very good job of handling this program.

Thom Petersen, MN Farmers Union, he stated this is a positive tool for farmers in distress and they strongly support extending the sunset.

John Apitz, Messerli & Kramer, representing Farm Credit Services, testified against the bill. He questioned the constitutionality of it, even though there are no court cases. Stated the sunset has been extended 12 times in the last 19 years. They feel the reason for this law doesn't exist anymore.

Senator Dille moved S.F. 550 be passed. BILL PASSED.

Senator Lourey presented S.F. 296, a bill relating to the beginning milk producers payment program. Senator Lourey moved the A-1 amendment.

Senator Dille stated on Page 1, line 13, he wanted to move to delete "natural" and insert "fire or other" and the same on line 27

AMENDMENT PASSED.

Senator Lourey moved S.F. 296, as amended, be passed and rereferred to Finance. BILL PASSED.

Senator Kubly presented S.F. 554, a bill relating to an exclusion for noninvasive floating of horse teeth.

Jim Johnson, Sacred Heart, Minnesota. Mr. Johnson was floating teeth and was told in October of 2004, that he could no longer perform this service.

Stephanie Kaneps, Jonathan Stables, Chaska, Minnesota. She stated it's important they can choose their own care providers for their horses.

David Dayton, St. Michael, Minnesota. He stated he has been in the horse business for 49 years and wants to be able to make his own choice. He stated floating of teeth is a skill and not necessarily one provided by veterinarians.

Maxine Heinitz, Horse trainer and breeder, Golden Valley, MN. Supports the bill.

Jean Liestman, Litchfield, Minnesota. Operates a breeding and training facility and wants to be in control of who does the work on her horses.

John King, Executive Director, Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine. He stated this bill implies this is a non-evasive procedure. He stated it allows for a non-licensed veterinarian to float teeth under the direction of a veterinarian. There is no definition of what floating is. They oppose the bill.

Dr. Tom Hagerty, Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association. Mr. Hagerty stated they oppose the bill.

Dr. Julia Wilson, University of Minnesota. She stated horses do not like to have their teeth floated and you need someone who knows what they are doing and what to do in case of problems, i.e., infection, etc.

Dr. J.C. Thieke, Anoka, Minnesota. Dr. Thieke stated this is an issue in multiple states. Horses live to be 30, if they have good teeth.


John Engstrom, Equine Practitioner Dental Committee, American Veterinary Association. He stated he has had numerous calls after someone other than a veterinarian has floated their horses teeth. He opposes the bill.

The following people submitted emails for the record: Richard Stenberg, Victoria Del Calzo, Dr. Joseph and Jacqueline Garamella, Diane Gordon, Janice Peterson, Gretchen Scharmer and Rick and Jane Aalderks.

Senator Vickerman stated he thought both sides she get together and try to work out their differences. He moved to lay the bill on the table.

Senator Skoe stated this is a non-debatable motion. Meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

This meeting was taped.



Senator Jim Vickerman, Chair



by/ Sandi Brown

02:15:53

Senate Agriculture, Veterans and Gaming Committee

Monday, February 7, 2005

3:00 p.m.

Room 112, Capitol

AGENDA

S.F. 550-Vickerman: Farmer lender mediation act expiration date extension and codification.

Mary Preisler, Director, Farmer Lender Mediation Program
David Moeller, Staff Attorney, Farmers' Legal Action Group
Thom Petersen, Director of Government Relations, MN Farmers Union

S.F. 296-Lourey: Beginning milk producers payment program.

S.F. 557-Kubly: Noninvasive floating of horse teeth exclusion.

Jim Johnson, Sacred Heart, Minnesota
Stephanie Kaneps, Jonathan Stables, Chaska
Maxine Heinitz, Horse trainer and breeder, Golden Valley

John King, Executive Director, MN Board of Veterinary Medicine

Opposed:

Dr. Julia Wilson, University of Minnesota Senate
Dr. J.C. Thieke, Anoka
John Engstrom, American Veterinary Association, Equine Practitioner Dental
Committee

Senate Committee Meeting Log

Committee Name: Ag., Vets & Gaming

Date: February 7th, 2005 Day: Monday

Start Time: 3:10 pm

Agenda

Bill # (or Topic)	SF 550	
Author	Vickerman	
Short Descriptor	Mary Preister, David Moeller, Thom Peterson	
Action(s)	Sent to Senate floor	
3:57 Bill # (or Topic)	S.F. 296	
Author	Lowrey	
Short Descriptor		
Action(s)	adopted sent to finance	
4:25 Bill # (or Topic)	SF 557	
Author	Kubly	
Short Descriptor	Jim Johnson Sheila Kanepps Maxine Heinitz	Gene Lieberman Dan King Dr. Wilson Pr. JC Thieke John Engstrom
Action(s)	L → laid over	

end time 5:25

Bill # (or Topic)	
Author	
Short Descriptor	
Action(s)	
Bill # (or Topic)	
Author	
Short Descriptor	
Action(s)	
Bill # (or Topic)	
Author	
Short Descriptor	
Action(s)	
Bill # (or Topic)	
Author	
Short Descriptor	
Action(s)	

Adjournment Time: _____

Recorded by: _____

Date: _____

Received by: _____

Date: _____

Reformatted by: _____

Date: _____

Returned on (date): _____ Received by: _____