

The Agriculture, Veterans and Gaming Committee met on Wednesday, March 30, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 112, Capitol. The following members were present:

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

Senator Vickerman called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Senator Ranum presented S.F. 1891, a bill establishing an outreach program to minority veterans.

Those speaking in support were:

Marland Ronning, Commander, Minnesota American Legion
Jim Cook, Executive Director, Sabathani Community Center

Senator Skoglund moved S.F. 1891 be passed and be rereferred to Finance. BILL PASSED.

Senator Murphy presented S.F. 1893, a bill establishing grants for research on improved combustion of ethanol in motor vehicle engines.

Valerie Jerich, MN Ethanol Producers Association, testified in support.

Senator Murphy moved S.F. 1893, be passed and be rereferred to Finance. BILL PASSED.

Senator Vickerman called on Senator Scheid for S.F. 1723, a bill authorizing a card club and simulcasting for the Columbus Township harness track when it opens instead of having to wait until after the first 50 races.

People testifying in support were:

Jim Druck, President, North Metro Harness Initiative – “See Attachment A.”
Tom Fox, Chief Financial Officer, North Metro Harness Initiative
Mel Metler, Chair, Columbus Township
Greg Boudak, MN Harness Racing Association, Janesville, MN
Dan Erhart, Anoka County Commissioner
Debbie Fiest, Executive Director, Forest Lake Chamber of Commerce-“See Attachment B.”
Tom Snell, North Metro Chamber of Commerce

Senator Skoe took over as chair and stated we would hear from opponents

Tadd Johnson, Special Counsel, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and Angela Heikes, Vice President of Gaming, Planning and Analysis, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Corporate Commission.

After Mr. Johnson started his testimony, Senator Scheid objected and stated his testimony had nothing to do with her bill.

Senator Skoe asked that they provide their testimony to Senator Day's bill.

John McCarthy, Executive Director, MN Indian Gaming Association.
Don Steinke, Columbus, Township, "See Attachment C."

Senator Hann wanted to ask Mr. Druck if he was planning an expansion.

Mr. Druck stated that wasn't his intent.

Senator Skoe stated the bill would be laid over until Monday.

Senator Day presented S.F. 1609, a bill allowing a casino at Canterbury Park in Shakopee. He stated he had a delete all amendment – SCS1609A-2.

People testifying in support were:

Randy Sampson, Canterbury Park, "See Attachment D."

Mr. Sampson stated the would pay a \$100 million location fee and it would increase to \$200 million every biennium once operational. He stated it would bring in 2.5 million annually for both city and county. He stated it would create 1,350 new service jobs and 650 fulltime, union, construction jobs. He stated the Minnesota State Lottery would own and operate the games.

Kay King, MN Thoroughbred Association, "See Attachment E."

Judy Jensen, Central State's Dressage and Evening Association.

Craig Bishop, Farmer and Horse Breeder, Blooming Prairie, MN.

Jaye Rykunyk, President, Local 17, "Attachment F."

John Williams, Business Manager, Minneapolis Bldg. & Const. Trades.

Joseph Helkamp, Councilmember, Shakopee City Council, "See Attachments G, H, and I."

People testifying in opposition were:

Helen Blue-Redner, Chair of the Upper Sioux Community.

Tadd Johnson, Special Counsel, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

Angela Heikes, Vice President of Gaming, Planning Analysis, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Corporate Commission.

Holly Hoesli, Executive Assistant, Treasure Island Resort and Casino, "See Attachment J."

John McCarthy, Executive Director, MN Indian Gaming Association.

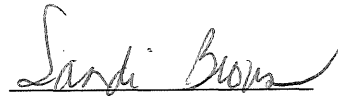
Senator Vickerman stated on Monday we will take up Senator Pappas' bill for a state-run casino and continue on with Senator Scheid and Senator Day's proposals.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

This meeting was taped.



Senator Jim Vickerman, Chair



by/ Sandi Brown

Senate Agriculture, Veterans and Gaming Committee

Wednesday, March 30, 2005

3:00 p.m.

Room 112, Capitol

A G E N D A

S.F. 1723-Scheid: Horseracing; providing for agreements between racetrack licensees and horsepersons' organizations; modifying restrictions on simulcasting and operating a card club. *Laid Over*

Jim Druck, President, North Metro Harness Initiative
Tom Fox, Chief Financial Officer, North Metro Harness Initiative
Mel Metler, Chair, Columbus Township Board
Kerry Banks, Minnesota Harness Racing Association
Ron Erhart, Anoka County Commissioner
Tom Snell, North Metro Chamber of Commerce

Opposed:

Tadd Johnson, Special Counsel, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
Angela Heikes, Vice President of Gaming, Planning & Analysis, Mille Lacs Band
of Ojibwe Corporate Commission
John McCarthy, Executive Director, MN Indian Gaming Association

S.F. 1891-Ranum: Veterans Affairs; establishing a program of outreach to minority veterans. *Passed - refer. to Finance*

Marland Ronning, Commander, Minnesota American Legion
Jim Cook, Executive Director, Sabathani Community Center

S.F. 1893-Murphy: Ethanol; establishing grants for research on improved combustion of ethanol in motor vehicle engines. *Passed - refer. to Finance*

Valerie Jerich, MN Ethanol Producers Association

S.F. 1609-Day: Racino. *Laid Over*

Randy Sampson, President, Canterbury Park,
Kay King, Executive Director, MN Thoroughbred Association
Judy Jensen, Central State's Dressage and Eventing Association
Craig Bishop, Farmer & Horse Breeder
Jaye Rykunyik, President, Local 17
John Williams, Business Manager, Minneapolis Building & Construction Trades

Over

Don Gerdesmeier, Minnesota Teamsters, D.R.I.V.E.
Joseph Helkamp, Councilmember, Shakopee City Council

Opposed:

Helen Blue-Redner, Chair of the Upper Sioux Community

~~Todd Johnson, Special Counsel, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe~~

~~Angela Heikes, Vice President of Gaming, Planning & Analysis, Mille Lacs Band
of Ojibwe Corporate Commission~~

Holly Hoesli, Exec. Assistant, Treasure Island Resort and Casino

John McCarthy, Executive Director, MN Indian Gaming Association

*Senate Agriculture, Veterans and Gaming Committee
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AGENDA

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