

The Senate Agriculture, Veterans and Gaming Committee met on Wednesday, March 22, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 112, Capitol. The following members were present:

Vickerman, Chair  
Skoe, Vice Chair  
Day  
Dille  
Hann  
Koering  
Lourey  
Murphy  
Nienow  
Rest  
Sams  
Solon  
Wergin

Senator Vickerman called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. and called on Senator Nienow for S.F. 3285, a bill repealing the regulation of beekeeping. Senator Nienow stated 57 percent of beekeepers support the bill.

**Fred Holte, President, Minnesota Honey Producers**, stated their board met and they support the bill. He said there was actually a fee increase last session but this is in the lowest 25 percent of the departments programs. He said this will save the department \$50,000 - \$100,000 and the beekeepers \$25,000.

Quorum present at 3:17 p.m.

Senator Nienow moved amendment SCS3285A-1. AMENDMENT PASSED.

Senator Nienow moved S.F. 3285, as amended, be passed and re-referred to Finance. BILL PASSED.

Senator Koering presented S.F. 3017, a bill relating to a milk volume production loan program funding study. People testifying in support were:

**Tom Anderson, Riverview Community College, Plainview, Minnesota**. "See Attachment A."

**Mark Fjelstad, Rochester, MN**. "See Attachment B."

**Ed Jolstock, Rochester, MN**.

**Doug Peterson, President, MN Farmers Union**. He stated 90 percent of the farms in Minnesota are under 100 cows.

**Greg Jans, MN Milk Producers**. The board supports the bill.

Senator Koering moved S.F. 3017 be passed. BILL PASSED.

Senator Nienow presented S.F. 3287, authorizing free license plates for combat wounded veterans.

Senator Nienow moved S.F. 3287 be passed and re-referred to the Transportation Committee. BILL PASSED.

Senator Wergin presented S.F.3334, a bill changing certain feed law provisions. She moved on Page 2, line 15, delete "promulgate such" and insert "adopt" AMENDMENT PASSED. "See Attachment C."

Senator Wergin moved S.F. 3334, as amended, be passed. BILL PASSED.

Senator Rosen stated she wanted to take up S.F. 3236, a bill modifying financial statement requirements for grain buyers and independent truckers. She stated a grain buyer is required to have a license renewed every year. This will not require an audit.

**Paul Strandberg, MN Dept. of Agriculture,** stated the department has no position.

**Jim Johnson, Senior Warehouse Examiner,** explained an audit is higher than a compilation.

**Bob Zelenka, MN Grain and Feed Association,** stated the bonding company would require statement. He said when someone is buying grain and they refuse to pay the farmer – the whole industry suffers.

Senator Dille asked who supports this?

Senator Rosen stated the independent truckers and the grain dealers.

Senator Rest moved S.F. 3236 be passed. BILL PASSED.

Senator Rest moved to lay S.F. 3235 over. Bill laid over.

Senator Dille presented S.F. 3333, authorizing National Guard employees to carry certain weapons.

**Col. Denny Shields, Dept. of Military Affairs,** testified in support and stated this bill includes military security forces.

Senator Dille moved S.F. 3333, be passed. BILL PASSED.

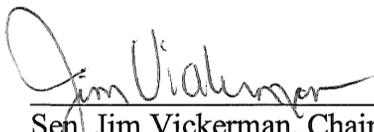
Senator Rest presented S.F. 2963, the lawful gambling provisions modifications.

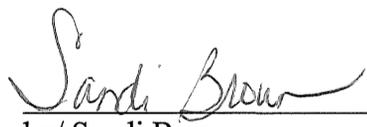
**Tom Barrett, Executive Director, Gambling Control Board,** stated this bill makes a variety of changes, including numerous technical and housekeeping changes.

Senator Rest stated there are still a few things to work out and she would like the bill held over until Monday.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

This meeting was taped.

  
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Sen. Jim Vickerman, Chair

  
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by/ Sandi Brown

**Senate Agriculture, Veterans and Gaming Committee**

**Wednesday, March 22, 2006**

**3:00 p.m.**

**Room 112, Capitol**

**AGENDA**

S.F. 3017-Koering: Milk volume production loan program funding study.

Doug Peterson, President, Farmers Union

Greg Jans, Minnesota Milk - *Passed*

S.F. 3285-Nienow: Beekeeping regulations repeal. - *Amended, Passed*

*Re-ref to Finance*

Fred Holte, Beekeeper

S.F. 3235-Rosen: Grain buyer financial statements bushel threshold modification. - *Laid Over*

S.F. 3236-Rosen: Grain buyer financial statement requirements modification. *Passed -*

S.F. 3287-Nienow: License plate fee exemption for combat wounded veterans. *Passed - Rereferred to Transportation*

S.F. 3334-Wergin: Commercial feeds provisions modifications. *Amended, Passed*

S.F. 3333-Dille: National guard employees weapon use authority. - *Passed*

S.F. 2953-Rest: Lawful gambling provisions modifications. *Laid Over till 3/27/06*