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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2003-04

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on Agriculture...

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
 - (**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
 - (**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

* Contents organized for archiving by: Stefanie Rose (LRB) (August 2012)

Assembly

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Agriculture

Assembly Bill 763

Relating to: payments to persons whose animals are destroyed because of a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy.

By Representatives Hubler, M. Lehman, Hahn, Miller, Freese, Plouff, Molepske and Gronemus; cosponsored by Senator A. Lasee.

January 27, 2004 Referred to Committee on Agriculture.

February 19, 2004 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (13) Representatives Ott, M. Williams, Ainsworth, Petrowski, Kestell, Hines, Loeffelholz, Towns, Gronemus, Plouff, Balow, Vruwink and Molepske.

Absent: (2) Representatives Suder and Hebl.

Appearances For

- Representative Mary Hubler, 75th Assembly District
- Dr. Robert Ehlenfeldt, DATCP, Madison

Appearances Against

- None.

Appearances for Information Only

- None.

Registrations For

- Senator Alan Lasee, 1st Senate District
- Don Hamm, National Farmers Organization, Fredonia
- Paul Zimmerman, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, Madison
- R.F. (Dick) Hauser, Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association, Richland Center

Registrations Against

- None.

February 26, 2004 **EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD**

Present: (15) Representatives Ott, M. Williams, Ainsworth, Petrowski, Kestell, Suder, Hines, Loeffelholz, Towns, Gronemus, Plouff, Balow, Vruwink, Hebl and Molepske.

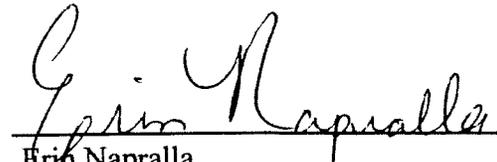
Absent: (0) None.

Moved by Representative Plouff, seconded by Representative Molepske that **Assembly Bill 763** be recommended for passage.

Ayes: (13) Representatives Ott, M. Williams, Ainsworth, Petrowski, Kestell, Suder, Loeffelholz, Towns, Plouff, Balow, Vruwink, Hebl and Molepske.

Noes: (2) Representatives Hines and Gronemus.

PASSAGE RECOMMENDED, Ayes 13, Noes 2


Erin Napralla
Committee Clerk

Vote Record Committee on Agriculture

Date: 2/21/04

Moved by: Plouff

Seconded by: Molepske

AB 71e3 SB _____ Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

Be recommended for:
 Passage Adoption Confirmation Concurrence Indefinite Postponement
 Introduction Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrence

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Representative Alvin Ott, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Mary Williams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative John Ainsworth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Jerry Petrowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Steve Kestell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Scott Suder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative J.A. Hines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Gabe Loeffelholz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Debra Towns	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Barbara Gronemus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Joe Plouff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Larry Balow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Amy Sue Vruwink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Tom Hebl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Louis Molepske	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>13</u>	<u>2</u>	_____	_____

Motion Carried Motion Failed





Mary Hubler

State Representative

Testimony of State Representative Mary Hubler

Assembly Committee on Transportation

Assembly Bill 763

February 19, 2004

Chairman Ott, Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony on Assembly Bill 763. This is a bill which would provide indemnities to persons whose animals are destroyed because of a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE). This is an important bill and I appreciate the Committee holding a hearing on it.

As all of you are aware, the December 2003 discovery of BSE in *one* cow in Washington state has been the impetus for a ban imposed on U.S. beef by many countries, sparking a run on beef prices already resulting in severe losses to Wisconsin's cattle industry. In fact, if nothing is done to quell the market's concerns, Secretary Rod Nilsestuen estimates that Wisconsin's share of the losses could total some \$220 million in the course of one year.

These figures represent real economic losses - losses that would be far more significant if BSE was discovered in Wisconsin's herds. While Wisconsin's farmers are renowned for their commitment to the highest standards of safety, in this increasingly globalized world such a scenario is not impossible to imagine. If BSE makes its way to Wisconsin, our farmers must be assuaged of their fears that their livelihood, their families and their farms will be threatened because of revenue lost due to the state condemnation of their animals.

Although current law states that indemnities will be paid to owners of livestock exposed to contagious or infectious diseases, BSE is not specifically mentioned as one of those diseases. While administrators at DATCP have indicated that BSE would be covered under current law, it is important that we send a strong, clear message to livestock owners that the State will not abandon them should Wisconsin face a crisis like Washington's. Without such an assurance, livestock owners may be reluctant to come forward to report cases of BSE in their herd thereby contributing to the spread of the disease and the loss of revenue to the industry.

In addition to expressly specifying BSE as an indemnifiable disease, this bill also mandates that indemnities be paid for animals other than livestock which are condemned because of TSEs. The impetus for this addition to the statutes stems from a 1985 outbreak in Stetsonville, Wisconsin wherein a mink ranch experienced an outbreak of TSE.

The outbreak at the mink ranch was later attributed to the feed fed to the mink which was composed of fallen dairy cattle. To investigate the possibility that this occurrence of TSE may have resulted from exposure to infected cattle, two Holstein bull calves were injected intracerebrally with mink brain from the Stetsonville ranch. Each bull developed a fatal spongiform encephalopathy, and both bovine brains passaged back into mink were once

again found to be highly pathogenic by both intracerebral and oral inoculation. According to a study published by the Journal of General Virology in 1991, this finding suggests "that there are no species barrier effects between mink and cattle in relation to the Stetsonville source of TME."

Such a discovery necessarily insists that Wisconsin, as a leader in the agricultural industry, recognize the significance that TSEs can be passed between species. As we are all acutely aware, BSE is the bovine form of TSE. Although many processes are prohibited in the production of livestock feed, it is not unreasonable to assume that species infected with a TSE could at some point be used in livestock feed.

As the Stetsonville case has shown us, TSEs can be passed back and forth between species, making it ever important to ensure that owners of non-livestock animals come forward should their animals become infected with a TSE. Without the assurance that their animals will be indemnified should there be an outbreak of TSE, non-livestock animal owners and breeders may be inclined not to report cases of TSE among their animals, potentially threatening the health and safety of the beef industry in Wisconsin.

Chairman Ott, members of the Committee, I know that you are all committed to the maintenance of a vibrant cattle industry in Wisconsin. It is for that reason that I ask that you take this small, but significant step in protecting an industry so vitally important to Wisconsin's economy.

Thank you for your attention and consideration on this important matter.