

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO REENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1290

In lieu of the amendments adopted by the Senate as printed on pages 716 and 717 of the Senate Journal, Reengrossed House Bill No. 1290 is amended as follows:

Page 1, line 2, after the second semicolon insert "to provide for a transfer; to provide a statement of legislative intent;"

Page 11, line 4, replace "\$239,000" with "\$454,000"

Page 11, after line 7, insert:

"SECTION 3. TRANSFER. The Bank of North Dakota shall transfer the sum of \$250,000 from uncommitted funds of the agricultural partnership in assisting community expansion fund to the agriculture department's operating fund for the purpose of implementing and operating the state meat inspection program for the biennium beginning July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2001.

SECTION 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE MEAT INSPECTION RULES - TEMPORARY COMMITTEE. The agriculture commissioner shall appoint a committee to assist in establishing administrative rules for the state meat inspection program which meet the requirements of the United States department of agriculture for the biennium beginning July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2001. The committee consists of the agriculture commissioner or the commissioner's designee; the vice president of agricultural affairs at North Dakota state university; the state veterinarian or the veterinarian's designee; and four individuals appointed by the agriculture commissioner, one of whom represents producers, one of whom represents processors, and two consumer members. The agriculture commissioner or the commissioner's designee is chairman of the committee. Each appointed member is entitled to receive sixty-two dollars and fifty cents per day as compensation for time actually spent devoted to the duties as provided in this section and is entitled to receive necessary expenses in the same manner and amounts as state officials for attending meetings and performing other functions of the office.

SECTION 5. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the fifty-sixth legislative assembly that the agriculture commissioner complete the promulgation of rules for the state meat inspection program and begin operating the program by July 1, 2000; however, if it is not possible to begin by July 1, 2000, the commissioner may begin the program at a later date but not later than January 1, 2001."

Renumber accordingly

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

DEPARTMENT 602 - AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

SENATE - This amendment creates a committee for only the 1999-2001 biennium to assist the Agriculture Commissioner in establishing the administrative rules for the state meat inspection program.

A section of legislative intent is added providing that the Agriculture Commissioner attempt to begin the program by July 1, 2000, but if that is not possible, the program should begin no later than January 1, 2001.

The appropriation is increased by \$215,000 of special and federal funds. Of the \$454,000 total special fund appropriation, \$250,000 is provided from a transfer from the Ag PACE fund at the Bank of North Dakota, \$200,000 is from federal funds, and \$4,000 is from collections of inspection fees. Of the \$454,000 appropriation, up to \$50,000 is provided for creating the administrative rules for the program and for training inspectors. The Agriculture Commissioner is authorized up to eight FTE positions for the program.