

SENATE BILL NO. 287

INTRODUCED BY F. MOORE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR ELECTION OF THE BOARD OF LIVESTOCK;
 ESTABLISHING DISTRICTS BASED ON POPULATION; ALLOWING VOTING BY LIVESTOCK OWNERS;
 SETTING TERMS; PROVIDING FOR REDISTRICTING; AND AMENDING SECTION 2-15-3102, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 2-15-3102, MCA, is amended to read:

"2-15-3102. Board of livestock -- composition. (1) There is a board of livestock.

(2) The board consists of seven members ~~appointed by the governor with the consent of the senate.~~

Each member must be a resident of the state and an active livestock producer. ~~A member must be appointed upon the recommendation of the related industry and must have the following qualifications:~~

~~—— (a) four are cattle producers;~~

~~—— (b) one is a dairy producer representing the dairy and poultry industry;~~

~~—— (c) one is a swine producer; and~~

~~—— (d) one is a sheep producer.~~

~~—— (3) An appointee is vested with all the powers and duties of office before being confirmed by the senate, as are directors in 2-15-111(2).~~

~~—— (4) The governor shall designate the presiding officer of the board.~~

(3) (a) Members are elected by livestock owners who pay a per capita fee pursuant to 15-24-921.

(b) Candidates for the board are nonpartisan and must be nominated and elected pursuant to the provisions of Title 13, chapter 14.

(c) Each livestock owner who paid the per capita fee in the year preceding the election, regardless of number or type of livestock, is entitled to one vote.

(4) Livestock owners shall elect four cattle producers to the board, one from each district as follows:

(a) district 1 comprises the counties of Lincoln, Sanders, Mineral, Lake, Flathead, Glacier, Pondera, Toole, Teton, and Lewis and Clark;

(b) district 2 comprises the counties of Missoula, Ravalli, Granite, Powell, Deer Lodge, Silver Bow,

1 Beaverhead, Madison, Jefferson, Broadwater, and Meagher;

2 (c) district 3 comprises the counties of Liberty, Hill, Blaine, Chouteau, Cascade, Judith Basin, Fergus,
3 Wheatland, Golden Valley, Gallatin, Park, Sweet Grass, Stillwater, and Carbon; and

4 (d) district 4 comprises the counties of Phillips, Petroleum, Musselshell, Yellowstone, Big Horn, Treasure,
5 Rosebud, Garfield, Valley, Daniels, Sheridan, Roosevelt, Richland, McCone, Dawson, Wibaux, Prairie, Custer,
6 Fallon, Powder River, and Carter.

7 (5) Livestock owners shall elect three members of the board statewide, including:

8 (a) one dairy producer representing the dairy and poultry industry;

9 (b) one swine producer; and

10 (c) one sheep producer.

11 ~~(5)(6)~~ (a) Except as provided in subsection (6)(b), a member shall serve for a term of 6 years.

12 (b) For the first terms after [the effective date of this act]:

13 (i) district 1 and district 3 members each serve a term of 4 years;

14 (ii) the swine producer serves a term of 4 years; and

15 (iii) the sheep producer serves a term of 2 years.

16 (7) Board elections are held in conjunction with primary elections pursuant to 13-1-107. The individual
17 receiving the highest number of valid votes at the election for each position is elected to the board.

18 (8) Elected board members take office on July 1 following the election.

19 (9) The legislature shall redistrict the cattle producer districts provided for in subsection (4) during the first
20 full legislative session after the release of the federal decennial population census results. The districts must
21 contain only whole counties, must consist of compact and contiguous territory, and must be as equal as
22 practicable in population.

23 ~~(6)(10)~~ Members of the board must be reimbursed and compensated in the same manner as are
24 members of quasi-judicial boards in under 2-15-124(7)."

25 - END -