

COMMITTEE STATEMENT

LB 832

HEARING DATE: February 2, 1999

COMMITTEE ON: Agriculture

TITLE: (Agriculture Committee, Connealy, Jones, Schmitt, Bromm) Adopt the Livestock Contract Sale Act

ROLL CALL VOTE – FINAL COMMITTEE ACTION

Advanced to General File

Advanced to General File with Amendments

X Indefinitely Postponed

Vote Results:

7	Yes	Senators Cudaback, Dickey, Dierks, Hilgert, Janssen, Schrock, Vrtiska
0	No	
0	Present, not voting	
1	Absent	Senator Chambers

PROPOSERS	REPRESENTING
Senator Merton L. Dierks	District #40
U.S. Senator Bob Kerrey	State of Nebraska
Senator George Coordsen	District #32
Senator Jim Jones	District #43
Senator Roger Wehrbein	District #2
Senator Curt Bromm	District #23
Senator Matt Connealy	District #16
Merlyn Carlson, Director	Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Mike Callicrate	Self
Steve Cady	Nebraska Pork Producers Association
Keith Olsen	Nebraska Farm Bureau
Stanley Rosendahl	Nebraska Pork Producers Association
Bill Rhea	Nebraska Cattlemen
Geoffery Stolle	Nebraska Cattlemen
Homer Buell	Nebraska Cattlemen
Greg Ruehle	Nebraska Cattlemen
Paul Peters	Self
Donald Kracke	Nebraska Livestock Markets Association
Clint Dubas	Mid-Nebraska Pride
John K. Hansen	Nebraska Farmers Union
Mick Karmazin	Self

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Albert J. Ebers	Nebraska State Grange
Michael Jacobson	Self
Gene Himmelberg	Self
Loran Schmit	Self
OPPONENTS	REPRESENTING
Dick Gady	ConAgra
Donald E. Willoughby	IBP, Inc.
Kathy Siefken	Nebraska Retail Grocers Association
Bob Crain	Self
Larry McCord	Self
Doug Cunningham	Nebraska Retail Grocers Association
NEUTRAL	REPRESENTING

SUMMARY OF PURPOSE AND/OR CHANGES:

LB 832 creates the Livestock Contract Sale Act. There are two primary substantive provisions of the bill.

1. Prohibition against packers entering into a contract purchase of slaughter livestock if a date of delivery is not agreed to in the purchase agreement. All such contract purchases of livestock are to be by written or oral agreement and shall specify a calendar day for delivery or specify a month for delivery and allow the seller to set the week for delivery within that month.

A contract purchase of livestock for slaughter is defined as the purchase of livestock by any means other than competitive bidding in which the livestock purchased are to be delivered more than seven days after a purchase agreement is entered into.

2. Requirement that packers are to report all contract purchases of slaughter livestock to the Department of Agriculture. Such reports would contain information including the volume, price paid, and destination of animals purchased by contract. The Director of Agriculture is required to publish weekly reports of contract purchases in a format useable by the media and interested individuals. The bill imposes a 1 cent/animal unit reporting fee.

The Department of Agriculture is empowered to impose administrative fines, recover fees and penalties by civil action, and seek injunctive relief for violations of the Livestock Contract Sale Act.

EXPLANATION OF AMENDMENTS, IF ANY:

Senator Merton L. Dierks, Chairman