

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 7, 2000

LB 1092

livestock commodity groups in utilizing state meat inspection as a means to capture more of the food dollars with identify-preserved and producer-owned labeled foods. While it is possible for producer groups to work with federally inspected plants, these tend to be larger and less flexible than some of the mid-size plants, which tend to be...fit better within the state program. I would like to urge your support of the committee amendments. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Robak would move to amend the committee amendments, Mr. President. (AM2633, Legislative Journal page 935.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Robak, you're recognized to open on your amendment to the committee amendments to LB 1092.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My amendment makes changes to the dates in the bill and it takes out the noninclusive language in the bill. The changes in the dates basically move the deadlines forward one year. We had hoped that the Department of Agriculture could get all the legwork done for the statutory changes in time to introduce the changes for one session. Unfortunately, the process requires a live dialogue with the federal Safety and Inspection Service, and the folks in the Department of Agriculture are worried that if the federal people don't respond in a timely manner we may not be able to meet that deadline. If you return...look at your pink or your pink sheet in the handout, it gives the time line for the state meat inspection pilot program. Also, the department would like to have time to meet with the current custom-exempt plants to determine what level of interest there is in this type of pilot program. That way, when they launch the pilot there will be adequate inspectors for the plants that want to become state inspected. As a result of moving the dates...start dates forward, it also seemed wise to push the sunset...push back the sunset date on the pilot program. That allows us three years to evaluate the program and its economic impact. The removal of "all aspects of" and "all" on lines 14 and 16 were suggested when we got together with the Agriculture Committee staff and the staff from the Department of Agriculture. We realize that