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FLOOR DEBATE

February 16, 2006 LB 856

favor vote aye; opposed, nay. Have you all voted on the question who care to? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 32 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Beutler's amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The Beutler amendment has been agreed to.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill at this time, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Back to discussion of advancement itself. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature. Senator Kremer, I wanted to bring one more matter to your attention, and I don't expect you to reply, because I didn't have the opportunity to discuss it with you beforehand. But on page 15 of the bill, line 21, it talks about what happens if Congress does not reauthorize the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act, and it indicates that the director shall prepare a budget and an appropriation request from the General Fund, from the Competitive Livestock Markets Cash Fund, or from any other cash funds under the control of the director. In the first instance, this language seems unnecessary, in the sense that any of these things probably can be done without saying so. But more explicitly, what I wanted to see if your staff would take a look at, before Select File is Section...is the way Section 54-2627 and 54-2628 works in conjunction with that language on page 15, because Section 54-2627 indicates that "The department shall assess a fee not to exceed two cents per animal unit,..." and so it appears that that fee then goes in...well, that fee, if it's levied, does go into this livestock cash fund, and it says, the money in the fund shall be used to defray the investigative enforcement and reporting expenses of the department in administering the act. So it appears that this is to be a cash funded operation, and consequently, I'm concerned about the suggestion on page 15 of the bill, that maybe money would be coming from the General Fund. And also, I thought that some other of the ag organizations might be concerned about the fact that it authorizes the director, apparently, to take cash funds