

Important note: if there's a bill you think is important to cattlemen and it's not included on the tracking list below, please contact Jodie at the SDCA office immediately - 605.945.2333 or executive@sd cattlemen.org.

The February 14th "cross-over" day has come and gone, thanks to extra time by committees and long hours on the floor. Issues still to be addressed include education funding, the 2013 budget, and large project funding. These issues will continue to be discussed as the last two weeks of session rapidly approach.

Action on bills of interest to SDCA includes:

SB169 was "hoghoused" (completely re-written) on the Senate floor and now creates an advisory task force to study and make recommendations on drainage issues, including the possible organization of drainage districts. This amendment created legislation the coalition of ag groups, including SDCA, could support and SB169 passed the Senate 23-11. (See 2-10-12 update for complete list of the ag coalition.)

HB 1003 was introduced on the recommendation of the Ag Land Assessment Advisory Task Force to revise the cap on the increases and decreases that may be made to the total taxable value of ag land. The current 10% limit has caused issues with equalization between crop land and non-crop land and across county lines. It has been signed by the Governor.

HB 1230 will expand the number and cost of public notice requirements for water right permits. Ag Unity opposed the bill (including SDCA) due to our belief existing public notice requirements are adequate and this expansion is not necessary. The bill passed the House 64-5 but concerns raised by Ag Unity have the bill's sponsor and DENR reviewing possible amendments.

As reported in previous newsletters, there have been several bills that impact the Brand Board. HB1083 is the only surviving bill and will implement term limits for Brand Board service - 3 terms for a maximum of nine years. HB 1083 passed Senate Ag and Natural Resources this week on a vote of 5-3. HB 1084, which removed any political qualifications for Brand Board membership, was deferred to the 41st day in Senate Ag and Natural Resources on a 7-1 vote.

HB 1037 expands the purpose of the agriculture mediation program by allowing the SD Department of Ag to provide mediation to persons or organizations seeking to mediate disputes with federal land management agencies concerning decisions made by those federal agencies. HB 1037 passed Senate Ag & Natural Resources and the Senate and now heads to the Governor's office.

HB1070 gives the Animal Industry Board rule-making authority to determine which animals coming into the state need to be accompanied by a health certificate. Coming about as the result of concerns from dog show participants, the change could allow for better management of "same production system" livestock crossing state lines. HB 1070 awaits action by the Governor.



HB 1116 allows for sales tax exemptions for straw, corn stover and bean straw used for livestock bedding. On February 15th the Senate Taxation Committee passed HB1116 with a vote of 7-0, and it passed the Senate with a vote of 24-8 the following day. The remaining hurdle for the bill is action by the Governor. A signature by the Governor will allow the new law to go into effect on July 1, 2012. If the Governor would veto the bill, supporters of the measure would have the opportunity to seek an override of the veto, which requires a two-thirds vote of both houses.

BILL INFORMATION:

- HB 1001** revise certain provisions regarding the sales and use tax. Delivered to the Governor.
- HB 1003** revise the limitation on the increases and decreases that may be made to the total taxable value of cropland and noncropland. Signed by the Governor.
- HB 1011** will define domestic use of water in statute has been signed by the Governor. Ag Unity (SDCA is a member) supported the change.
- HB 1013** repeal certain obsolete statutes regarding the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Signed by the Governor.
- HB 1037** revise the purpose of the agriculture mediation program. Senate Do Pass 31-0.
- HB 1038** increase the penalty for leaving the brand inspection area without necessary inspection and authorization. Senate do pass 31-0.
- HB 1070** revise certain provisions relating to the certificate of health requirement for the importation of animals. Senate to pass 31-0.
- HB 1074** exempt certain counties from restrictions relating to the taking of muskrat. Ag & Natural Resources passed 10-0.
- HB 1080** waive certain licensure requirements to hunt fox and coyote with firearms. House do pass 20-49.
- HB 1083** to provide for term limits for brand board service. Ag & Natural resources do pass 5-3.
- HB 1084** revises the political qualifications for brand board membership. Ag & Natural Resources deferred to 41st Legislative day passed 7- 1.
- HB 1085** revises the residency requirements of the brand board membership. Ag & Natural Resources tabled passed 13-0.
- HB 1087** limit the terms of certain conservation easements to 30 years failed to pass the House floor on a vote of 22-45.
- HB 1116** exempt bedding used for agricultural purposes from sales and use taxes. Taxation do pass 7-0.
- HB 1166** require the departments of Agriculture and Game, Fish and Parks to provide certain actions and funding specified in the South Dakota black-tailed prairie dog conservation and management plan. State Affairs tabled 10-2
- HB 1210** which would have exempted east river cattle entering the brand inspection area from brand inspection fees was tabled by its sponsor, Representative Tad Perry, on a 12-0 vote.
- HB 1240** separately classifies, assess, and tax agricultural land that is leased for certain purposes that restrict the use of the land. Taxation deferred to the 41st Day passed 9-6.
- HB 1070** revise certain provisions relating to the certificate of health requirement for the importation of animals. Senate to pass 31-0.
- SB 45** appropriate additional funds and to extend the availability of appropriations to replace storage facilities at the Cottonwood Agricultural Experiment Station. House do passed 49-16.
- SB 49** revise the property tax levies for the general fund of a school district. Senate do pass 34-0.
- SB 160** create the North Central Water Development District, to provide for the appointment of the board of directors, to establish certain property tax levy limitations, and to revise the boundaries of the James River Water Development District. Senate do pass 24-10.
- SB 169** Creates the Regional Watershed Advisory Task Force. Senate do pass 23-11.

SDCA members are encouraged to contact Jodie at the SDCA office at 605.945.2333 or executive@sdcattlemen.org if you have any questions regarding SDCA's legislative issues.

Useful Contact Information:

- SDCA Office: 605-945-2333
- House Lobby: 605-773-3851 (to leave a message for your Representative)
- Senate Lobby: 605-773-3821 (to leave a message for your Senator)
- *Additional information regarding the bills, legislative committees, etc. can be found on LRC's website at <http://legis.state.sd.us/index.aspx>.*