

FINAL BILL REPORT

ESB 6376

C 156 L 06

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Changing livestock inspection fee provisions.

Sponsors: Senators Rasmussen, Honeyford, Jacobsen, Shin, Morton and Delvin.

Senate Committee on Agriculture & Rural Economic Development
House Committee on Economic Development, Agriculture & Trade

Background: Historically, the livestock identification program involves inspection of livestock at mandatory inspection points to verify ownership. This information is now also being used to trace the movement of livestock for animal health related investigations. This program is funded by fees.

The Livestock Identification Advisory Board is composed of representatives of major segments of the livestock industry. This board advises the Director of Agriculture regarding the administration of the program and related inspection and licensing fees.

The livestock industry is engaged in the development of the National Animal Identification System to be able to conduct a trace-back of diseased livestock within 48 hours of discovery.

Summary: The current inspection fee of 85 cents per head is increased to \$1.60, or time and mileage, whichever is greater, for cattle that are not branded or otherwise identified in conformance with the department's rules. This fee also applies to cattle whose change of ownership is documented through the use of a self-inspection certificate.

For cattle that are identified in conformance with the department's rules, the fee is \$1.10, or time and mileage, whichever is greater. This fee does not apply to inspection of cattle when documenting a change of ownership with a self-inspection certificate.

The fee for inspection of cattle at a federally inspected processing plant with a daily capacity of less than 500 head is \$4 per head. The option to charge time and mileage does not apply to this category, nor does the minimum \$5 fee for issuance of an inspection certificate.

The per head audit fee for feed lots is increased from 17 cents to 25 cents. The maximum number of head of cattle whose sale may be documented through self-inspection certificates is increased from 15 to 25 head.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	46	0
House	96	1

Effective: June 1, 2006