

**Amendment - 1st Reading/2nd House-blue - Requested by: Willis Curdy - (S) Agriculture,
Livestock and Irrigation**

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Rebecca Brown,

HB0119.002.003

HOUSE BILL NO. 119

INTRODUCED BY B. LER

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MONTANA CATTLE COMMITTEE;
ESTABLISHING MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS; ESTABLISHING COMMITTEE DUTIES; PROVIDING FOR
A CATTLE ASSESSMENT; PROVIDING FOR A CATTLE ASSESSMENT REFERENDUM FOR CATTLE
SELLERS; CREATING A CATTLE SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT; PROVIDING A STATUTORY
APPROPRIATION; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; AMENDING
SECTIONS 2-18-103, 17-7-502, AND 81-1-102, MCA; PROVIDING FOR CONTINGENT VOIDNESS; AND
PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Montana cattle committee. (1) There is a Montana cattle committee.

(2) The committee consists of ~~seven~~ 11 members.

(3) A list of nominees for appointment may be submitted to the governor by the Montana
stockgrowers association, the Montana cattlemen's association, the Montana association of livestock auction
markets, Montana cattlemen, the Montana beef council, the Montana farm bureau federation, the intertribal
agriculture council, the Montana meat processors, the Montana feeders association, and the Montana farmers
union. Names of nominees must be publicly submitted at least 90 days before the expiration of a committee
member's term.

(4) (a) Except as provided in subsection (4)(b), the appointed members serve staggered terms of 3
years. A member may not serve more than three consecutive 3-year terms.

(b) The initial appointments are as follows: ~~two~~ three members for 1-year terms, ~~two~~ four members
for 2-year terms, and ~~three~~ four members for 3-year terms.

(5) The governor shall appoint ~~members~~ a member from each association's nominated list and one
at-large member from the individuals nominated as provided in subsection (3). If too few individuals are

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1 nominated to fill the available positions, the governor may appoint a Montana resident who is a cattle producer,
2 as defined in [section 3].

3 (6) Each appointed member must be a resident of Montana and be a cattle producer in the state.

4 (7) A member may be removed by the governor, after a full public hearing before the governor, for
5 malfeasance, misfeasance, or neglect of duty. Removal proceedings may not be stated except upon duly
6 verified written charges. The member must be given a copy of the written charges at least 10 days in advance
7 of the hearing. At the hearing, the member may be represented by an attorney and may present witnesses on
8 the member's behalf.

9 (8) A member who ceases to reside in the state or who ceases to be a Montana cattle producer is
10 disqualified from membership, and the office becomes vacant. If the member refuses to recognize the
11 member's disqualification, the refusal is cause for removal from the committee.

12 (9) The committee is allocated to the department of livestock for administrative purposes only as
13 provided in 2-15-121.

14

15 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Purpose.** The legislature finds and declares that:

16 (1) the production of cattle constitutes a paramount industry in Montana that brings substantial
17 revenue to the state and provides consumers with local and nutritious beef;

18 (2) the production of cattle and beef provides a viable living for many Montanans and serves as
19 the economic foundation of many communities;

20 (3) the stabilization, maintenance, and expansion of markets for Montana cattle is necessary in
21 order to provide consumers with an adequate supply of high-quality beef;

22 (4) the committee form of administration is uniquely situated to provide those engaged in the
23 production of cattle with the opportunity to avail themselves of the benefits of collective action in advertising,
24 promotion, food safety production research, nutrition, marketing research, the collection and dissemination of
25 production and related statistics, and public education; and

26 (5) enabling the committee to formulate and effectuate research, promotion, and educational
27 programs designed to enhance the Montana cattle industry will create a favorable environment for Montana

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cattle producers to operate and improve their competitiveness in both the domestic and international
marketplaces.

NEW SECTION. Section 3. Definitions. As used in [sections 2 through 16], unless the context
clearly indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Board" means the board of livestock established in 2-15-3102.

(2) "Cattle producer" means a person who owns cattle in their own name or is an owner or
beneficiary of a business entity or trust that owns cattle in the state.

(3) "Cattle seller" means a person or entity that sells cattle. The term includes a person,
partnership, association, corporation, cooperative, trust, joint tenancy, tenants in common, and all other
business units, devices, and arrangements.

(4) "Collecting person" means a person who is responsible for collecting and remitting a cattle
assessment pursuant to [section 12].

(5) "Committee" means the Montana cattle committee provided for in [section 1].

(6) "Department" means the department of livestock provided for in 2-15-3101.

(7) "Montana cattle" means any cattle that have been physically located inside the boundary of the
state for the past 30 days.

NEW SECTION. Section 4. Compensation -- per diem. Members of the committee may not receive
a salary but are entitled to compensation as provided in 2-15-122 for each day they are engaged in the
transaction of official business. Members must be reimbursed for travel expenses, as provided in 2-18-501
through 2-18-503, incurred while on official business.

NEW SECTION. Section 5. Election of officers -- time of meetings -- quorum. (1) The members of
the committee shall annually elect a chairperson and a vice chairperson from among the committee
membership. The chairperson and vice chairperson shall each serve a 1-year term.

(2) The committee shall meet at least once a year and at other times as called by the chairperson

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1 or by any three members of the committee.

2 (3) ~~Four~~Six members of the committee constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business,
3 including the election of officers.

4
5 **NEW SECTION. Section 6. Powers of committee.** (1) The committee may:

6 (a) adopt rules and orders necessary for the administration of [sections 2 through 16] for the
7 exercise of its powers and the performance of its duties, in accordance with the Montana Administrative
8 Procedure Act;

9 (b) provide, through the department, for the enforcement of [sections 2 through 16];

10 (c) employ a person to serve as the executive director at the pleasure of the committee;

11 (d) retain additional staff to discharge the duties outlined in [sections 2 through 16];

12 (e) enter into contracts in the name of the committee to carry out the purposes of [sections 2
13 through 16];

14 (f) plan and conduct research programs to improve and benefit Montana's cattle industry;

15 (g) plan and conduct publicity and marketing promotion campaigns to increase the demand for
16 cattle and enter into publicity and sales promotion contracts and other agreements as necessary;

17 (h) cooperate with any local, state, or national organization or agency engaged in similar work or
18 activities to carry out joint campaigns of research, education, product promotion, publicity, and reciprocal
19 enforcement of the ~~objections~~OBJECTIVES of [sections 2 through 16];

20 (i) accept grants, donations, and gifts from any source for expenditure for any purpose consistent
21 with [sections 2 through 16], including a purpose specified as a condition of a grant, donation, or gift;

22 (j) establish and maintain the executive offices of the committee at any location in the state;

23 (k) authorize the purchase of equipment or supplies and incur all other reasonable and necessary
24 expenses and obligations required to carry out the provisions of [sections 2 through 16]; and

25 (l) become a member of and purchase membership in trade organizations and subscribe to and
26 purchase trade bulletins, journals, and other trade publications.

27 (2) The committee has final authority on the use and distribution of money from the cattle special