

**SENATE BILL REPORT**

**SSB 6098**

**AS PASSED SENATE, FEBRUARY 10, 1994**

**Brief Description:** Eliminating the expiration of the dairy inspection program.

**SPONSORS:** Senate Committee on Agriculture (originally sponsored by Senators M. Rasmussen, Newhouse, Snyder and Quigley; by request of Department of Agriculture)

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 6098 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators M. Rasmussen, Chairman; Loveland, Vice Chairman; Bauer, Morton and Newhouse.

**Staff:** Bob Lee (786-7404)

**Hearing Dates:** January 18, 1994; January 31, 1994

**BACKGROUND:**

The Department of Agriculture administers the milk inspection program. The purpose of the program is to assure milk and milk products meet minimum state and federal standards. Milk must meet federal standards to be shipped in interstate commerce. State inspections of dairy farms are subject to spot checks by federal inspectors. Regions of the state are divided into bulk tank units. If a bulk tank unit fails to meet the standards, dairy farms within the bulk tank unit are decertified. Some restrictions apply to the sale of milk from a decertified bulk tank unit.

In 1992, additional funding for the milk inspection program was provided through an assessment on fluid milk. The additional revenue was to supplement funding from the state general fund. The assessment is collected from the operator of the first milk plant receiving the milk for processing. The assessment of fifty-four one-hundredths of one cent per hundredweight is scheduled to expire June 30, 1994.

The legislation also created an advisory committee to provide recommendations regarding the structure and funding of the dairy inspection program. The report to the Legislature was due by December 1992.

**SUMMARY:**

The June 30, 1994 termination date of the assessment on fluid milk is extended to June 30, 1995.

The dairy inspection program advisory committee is continued but the December 1, 1992 due date for the report is deleted.

**Appropriation:** none

**Revenue:** none

**Fiscal Note:** requested

**TESTIMONY FOR:**

The assessment provides an important source of revenue to the milk inspection program. Additional study of the program is needed before the fee is instituted on a permanent basis.

**TESTIMONY AGAINST:** None

**TESTIFIED:** PRO: Doug Marshall, Darigold; Mike Schwisow, Oregon-Washington Dairy Processors; John Daly, WSDA