

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Representative Willard Munger, Chairman of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, called the thirty-eighth meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. on November 18, 1987, in room E128 of the Alexandria Area Technical Institute.

The clerk noted the roll:

Munger, Chairman	Reding
Carlson, D.	Rose
Hugoson	Rukavina
Kahn	Schafer
Larsen	Shaver
Long	Simoneau
Marsh	Trimble
McPherson	Wagenius
Neuenschwander	Waltman
Pauly	

Members excused:

Battaglia	Johnson, B.
Begich	Knuth
Himle	Nelson, D.
Jennings	Skoglund
Johnson, A.	Iniede

A quorum was present.

Representative Schafer moved that the minutes of the April 28, September 10, and October 15, 1987 meetings be approved as prepared by the clerk. Motion adopted.

The first item on the agenda was an overview of a proposed degradable plastics bill draft which was presented by its author, Representative Roger Cooper.

Following his presentation and a discussion period, the following spoke to the issue:

Leonard Binstock, Executive Director,
Minnesota Corn Growers Association

Norman Sjobeck, Owner,
Four dry-cleaning stores and a tuxedo rental
St. Cloud

Pat Conley, Legislative Representative,
Association of Minnesota Counties

Gerald Lacey, Grant County Commissioner

Also on the agenda was a look at a comprehensive recycling program, possibly to be introduced during the next session.

Those addressing the issue were:

Gerald Lacey, Grant County Commissioner
Bill Collins, Douglas County Commissioner

Edith Kelly, Member, Waste Management Board

Susan Thornton, Manager of Program Development,
Waste Management Board

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Tom Johnson, Assistant to the Chair,
Waste Management Board


Gerald Willet, Commissioner,
Pollution Control Agency

Commissioner Willet introduced members of his staff, Linda Bruemmer, Assistant to the Commissioner, and Cathy Berg-Moeger, Solid Waste Planner.

Representative Munger introduced Ms. Janet Green, Vice-Chair of the Pollution Control Agency Board and Chair of its Solid Waste Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.


Willard Munger, Chair


Elizabeth Gohl, Clerk

1 A bill for an act
2 relating to environment; prohibiting the sale of
3 certain polyethylene material; requiring rulemaking;
4 providing penalties; creating an advisory task force
5 and providing for its duties; proposing coding for new
6 law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 325E.

7

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

9 Section 1. [325E.045] [SALE OF CERTAIN POLYETHYLENE
10 MATERIAL PROHIBITED.]

11 Subdivision 1. [DEFINITIONS.] The definitions in this
12 subdivision apply to sections 1 and 2.

13 (a) "Nondegradable" means not capable of being decomposed
14 by natural biological processes, including exposure to the sun's
15 ultraviolet rays, within the time period established under
16 subdivision 2.

17 (b) "Person" means an individual partnership, corporation,
18 sole proprietorship, association, or other for profit or not for
19 profit organization, including the state and its political
20 subdivisions.

21 (c) "Polyethylene bag" means a bag made of polyethylene
22 that is given or sold by a retail store to a customer of the
23 store for carrying other items purchased from the store.

24 (d) "Polyethylene beverage ring" means a device made of
25 polyethylene that is used or intended to be used to hold
26 beverage bottles or other beverage containers together.

1 (e) "Polyethylene clothes wrapping" means polyethylene
2 material used or intended to be used by cleaning or laundering
3 businesses or both to cover clothing.

4 Subd. 2. [DEGRADABILITY.] The waste management board shall
5 adopt permanent rules, and may adopt emergency rules, under
6 chapter 14, prescribing the time period in which the
7 polyethylene material referred to in subdivision 3 must degrade
8 or decompose.

9 Subd. 3. [USE AND SALE PROHIBITED.] No person shall, on
10 and after January 1, 1989, use, sell, or offer for sale any
11 nondegradable polyethylene beverage ring, polyethylene bag, or
12 polyethylene clothes wrapping. A person who violates this
13 subdivision is guilty of a misdemeanor.

14 Sec. 2. [DEGRADABLE PLASTICS TASK FORCE.]

15 Subdivision 1. [ESTABLISHMENT.] An advisory task force on
16 degradable plastics is created. The task force consists of the
17 commissioners of agriculture, commerce, and the pollution
18 control agency, the director of the waste management board, the
19 president of the greater Minnesota corporation, and the head of
20 the consumer affairs division of the attorney general's office.
21 Representatives of other state agencies may also become members
22 of the task force with the approval of a majority of its members.

23 Subd. 2. [DUTIES.] The task force shall study:

24 (1) the incineration, decomposition, and recyclability of
25 all degradable plastics;

26 (2) the marketability of all degradable plastics, and the
27 development of markets for products made from degradable
28 plastics;

29 (3) the strength of degradable plastics; and

30 (4) other issues arising from the manufacture, marketing,
31 and use of degradable plastics.

32 Subd. 3. [REPORT.] The task force shall report its
33 findings, along with any proposed legislation the task force
34 believes necessary, to the legislature by January 1, 1991, after
35 which the task force expires.

36 Subd. 4. [ADMINISTRATION AND EXPENSES.] The task force is

1 attached to the rural development board for administrative
2 purposes and the board shall furnish the task force with office
3 space and administrative assistance necessary to fulfill the
4 duties of the task force. Members of the task force shall be
5 paid their expenses under section 15.059.

6 Sec. 3. [APPROPRIATION.]

7 \$. is appropriated from the general fund to the rural
8 development board for the purposes of sections 1 and 2, to be
9 available until January 1, 1991.