

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY COMMITTEE  
MONTANA STATE SENATE

April 8, 1987

The meeting of the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Safety committee was called to order by Chairman Dorothy Eck on April 8, 1987, at 2 P.M. in Room 410 of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: All members of the committee were present except Sens. Himsel and Meyer.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 45: Rep. Cal Winslow, District # 89, sponsor of the bill, stated the resolution calls for a study of mandated health benefits. Every session there have been questions as to whether premiums would go up or down from mandated benefits and whether there would be added costs from increased services. This issue needs to have a close look taken at it by the legislature.

PROPONENTS: Rodney Sunsted, Department of Labor, stated that they provide all medical benefits to other state laborers, excluding the university system. They would be interested in seeing what mandated benefits would do.

DISCUSSION OF HJR 45: Sen. Norman: Cal, if this were selected as a study, how would you direct an interim committee?

Rep. Winslow: I would look at the present mandates, like alcohol, drugs, and mental health to see if costs have increased since these were added as benefits, and I would also look at the other mandates that states around us have. I would determine how comparable all our medical costs are. The insurance companies may participate in looking at these programs.

Rod Sunstead: I have some fairly good data about savings to plans; when we added social workers to mental health, costs went up 75%.

Sen. Eck: In services provided by new providers or where services are more accessible for social workers, I have seen costs go up for this.

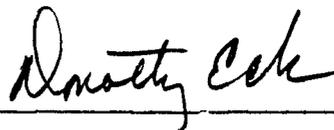
Rep. Winslow: I would like to see this looked at because so many people are on each side of the issue. But the costs of adding mandated services needs to be looked at.

ACTION ON HJR 45: Sen. McLane moved that HJR BE CONCURRED IN.

Sen. Norman: How many studies is the legislative council now doing? How many will be funded? Are there other related studies?

Karen Renne: I will check on this before this goes to the floor. The motion carried unanimously. Sen. McLane will carry the bill.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 P.M.



CHAIRMAN

ROLL CALL

Public Health, Welfare and Safety COMMITTEE

50th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1987

Date 4-8-87

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Dorothy Eck	X		
Bill Norman	X		
Bob Williams	X		
Darryl Meyer			
Eleanor Vaughn	X		
Tom Rasmussen	X		
Judy Jacobson	X		
Harry H. "Doc" McLane	X		
Matt Himsl			
Tom Hager	X		

Each day attach to minutes.

# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

April 10, 1987

MR. PRESIDENT

We, your committee on SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY

having had under consideration HJR 45 No 45

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**REQUESTING A STUDY FO THE COST OF MANDATING HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS**

**WENSLow (McLANE)**

Respectfully report as follows: That HJR No 45

BE CONCURRED IN

DO PASS

DO NOT PASS

.....  
DOROTHY ECK

Chairman.