

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
51st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND HIGHWAYS

Call to Order: By Chairman Quilici, on February 9, 1989, at 8:02 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: All members were present.

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Clayton Schenck, LFA
Flo Smith, OBPP
Mary Liedle, secretary

Announcements/Discussion: Chairman Quilici announced the committee would take executive action on the Legislative Agencies and then on the supplemental request by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.

DISPOSITION OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR

Tape No. 52A

Motion: Rep. Swysgood moved to approve \$16,000 in FY90 for lottery consulting services if the state lottery goes to an automated system.

Discussion: There was brief discussion regarding this approval being a contingency upon the state lottery.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: The motion PASSED unanimously.

Motion: Sen. Regan moved to approve the current level budget for the Legislative Auditor's Office.

Discussion: Sen. Regan asked if there are currently 59 employees on staff what the 60th position is for. Mary Bryson said there is one FTE included for the committee.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: The motion PASSED unanimously.

Discussion: There was discussion regarding the agency's request

for an additional 1 FTE EDP auditor. Sen. Regan asked why one of the present auditors couldn't be changed to perform the functions of an EDP auditor. Mary Bryson said the current 59 audit staff is needed to perform audits required by law. The agency needs an additional EDP auditor to audit existing state systems.

No Action Was Taken.

DISPOSITION OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tape No. 52A

Motion: Sen. Tveit moved to approve the current level budget for the operations program.

Discussion: Rep. Swysgood asked if the increase in dues for NCSL and CSG were included in this program. Clayton Schenck said those increases are in the interim studies program. There were several committee questions regarding the increase in the budget for this program over the last biennium. Bob Person discussed the increases saying they were due to personal services and travel. There's also an increase related to the conversion of the computer network. Sen. Tveit asked what the cause of the dramatic increase in travel was related to. Bob Person said it is to allow staff to attend annual meetings. He said almost no travel was done in the last biennium. Sen. Tveit asked why the agency didn't participate in those conferences during the last biennium if they are viewed as being important. Bob Person said that in the last budgeting process the agency agreed to eliminate almost all travel because it was not absolutely necessary to the performance functions of the agency. However, at that time it was stated that a permanent decrease in the travel budget would be detrimental to the agency and the legislature. Sen. Regan pointed out there is a 20% increase in this budget. Sen. Stimatz commented that during the last session this agency was cut dramatically.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: The motion carried with Rep. Swysgood and Sen. Regan voting nay.

Discussion: There was considerable discussion concerning the interim studies program. Sen. Stimatz asked what the status of the program is. Bob Person said it seems the legislature doesn't have much confidence in the interim studies that have been set up. Legislators feel they should rely more on themselves. Sometimes the legislators feel the wrong members get appointed to the study and therefore, they don't have confidence in the results. Rep. Swysgood said he feels the interim studies accomplish nothing. He recalled examples to reflect his opinion. Sen. Regan questioned the expenditures in this program.

Rep. Quilici asked Bob to cut the budget because if the committee did, it would be in an illogical manner. He said the issued would be deferred until Monday.

No Action Was Taken.

Motion: Sen. Regan moved to approve the current level budget for the reimbursable activities program.

Discussion: Rep. Quilici asked Bob Person to explain what this program does. Bob Person said the biggest part of the budget is for production of the Montana Codes and Annotations. This program also includes special projects and copy services.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: The motion PASSED unanimously.

DISPOSITION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

Tape No. 52B

Motion: Sen. Regan moved to approve the current level budget for the Environmental Quality Council.

Discussion: There was brief discussion regarding the percentage of increase in this budget. Sen. Regan said this is what she considers reasonable, about a 3% increase.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: The motion PASSED unanimously.

Motion: Sen. Regan moved to approve the Water Policy Committee budget at \$26,200 as a biennial appropriation.

Discussion: There was brief discussion clarifying this as a biennial appropriation rather than a one year only appropriation.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: The motion PASSED unanimously.

DISPOSITION OF CONSUMER COUNSEL

Tape No. 52B

Motion: Sen. Regan moved to approve the current level budget for the Consumer Counsel.

Discussion: Rep. Quilici commented that this is a tight budget

in which funds that are not needed are not expended.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: The motion PASSED unanimously.

Motion: Sen. Regan moved to approve \$100,000 each year in contingency funding, to be line-itemed.

Discussion: Rep. Quilici stated that this money has never been spent in the past but it is important for the Counsel to have the spending authority in the event that it is ever needed.

DISPOSITION OF LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST

Tape No. 52B

Motion: Sen. Tveit moved to approve the current level budget for the Legislative Fiscal Analyst's Office.

Discussion: Sen. Regan said this is the leanest budget the committee will see. She said there are no extras included in this budget.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: The motion PASSED unanimously.

Motion: Rep. Nisbet moved to approve \$13,600 for committee meeting days in FY90.

Discussion: Judy Rippingale told the committee the agency needs approval for the committee to meet. They need to meet more often during non-legislative years. Rep. Quilici said when this committee meets they meet long hours and accomplish a great deal.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: The motion PASSED unanimously.

Motion: Rep. Nisbet moved to approve data processing equipment at \$17,709 in FY90 and \$18,162 in FY91 and data processing costs at \$15,000 in FY90 only.

Discussion: Rep. Quilici asked Judy Rippingale to briefly discuss why these costs were needed. Judy explained the need for the data processing expenditures.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: The motion PASSED with Rep. Swysgood voting nay.

Motion: Sen. Stimatz moved to approve an intern analyst at a cost of \$11,824 to be a biennial appropriation.

Discussion: Sen. Tveit asked what this intern analyst would do. Judy Rippingale said they wanted an intern to compile a history of the state agency budgets.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: The motion PASSED unanimously.

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE APPROPRIATION BILL LANGUAGE

Tape No. 52B

Motion: Sen. Regan moved to approve the language "Item ___ is for expert witness fees for unanticipated cases."

Discussion: There was brief discussion clarifying that this was in regard to the approved contingency monies.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: The motion PASSED unanimously.

DISPOSITION OF CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT SUPPLEMENTAL

Tape No. 52B/53A

Motion: Sen. Regan moved to approve a \$6000 supplemental for FY89 for programming, court docket system.

Discussion: There was discussion as to whether this programming was necessary now. Ed Smith said that it is important to get the computers in the office operational. He also commented that although his budget is within the judiciary budget, he often gets money only if it is left at the end.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: The motion PASSED unanimously.

Motion: Rep. Nisbet moved to approve a \$2000 supplemental for FY89 to cover supplies and materials.

Discussion: Rep. Swysgood asked if Mr. Smith had already had his stationery printed. Ed Smith said he did have letterhead but there are other forms that need to be reprinted.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: The motion PASSED with Rep. Swysgood voting nay.

Motion: Rep. Swysgood moved to approve \$450 for computer training.

Discussion: Rep. Swysgood commented that if they are going to have the computers, they need to know how to use them. He

asked Ed Smith if that could come out of the budget anywhere else. Mr. Smith said that it could not.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: The motion PASSED unanimously.

Motion: Sen. Stimatz moved to approve a secretarial upgrade from a grade 10 to a grade 12 at a cost of \$2,750 each year of the biennium; a travel increase of \$800 over prior executive action for each year of the biennium; computer expansion of 3 terminals, plus training, printer and software at a cost of \$7,867 in FY90 and \$2000 in FY91; equipment to include shelving and a date/time stamp at \$2,425 in FY90 only.

Discussion: There was discussion regarding the secretarial position. Ed Smith said she is a long term employee, working through three different administrations and her duties and work performance demand the upgrade.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: The motion PASSED with Sen. Tveit and Rep. Swysgood voting nay.

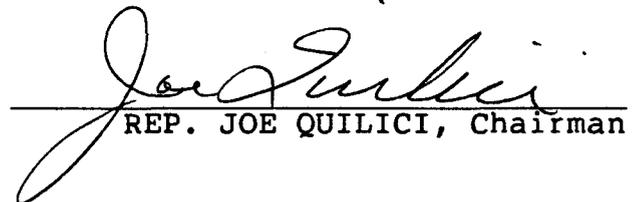
Motion: Rep. Swysgood moved to remove \$2500 each year of the biennium for docket programming costs.

Discussion: Committee members asked if this motion would be contingent upon the supplemental being approved by the full Appropriations Committee. Rep. Swysgood indicated that was correct. Ed Smith said this money was needed in FY90 and FY91 in addition to the \$6000 supplemental.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: The motion PASSED with Sen. Stimatz and Rep. Nisbet voting nay.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment At: 9:55 a.m.


REP. JOE QUILICI, Chairman

JQ/ml

3422.min

DAILY ROLL CALL

GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND HIGHWAYS SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE 2/9/89

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Representative Joe Quilici, Chair	✓		
Representative Jerry Nisbet	✓		
Representative Chuck Swysgood	✓		
Senator Larry Tveit, Vice Chair	✓		
Senator Pat Regan	✓		
Senator Lawrence Stimatz	✓		