

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
52nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE & SAFETY

Call to Order: By Chairman Dorothy Eck, on April 24, 1991, at
7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Dorothy Eck, Chairman (D)
Eve Franklin, Vice Chairman (D)
James Burnett (R)
Thomas Hager (R)
Judy Jacobson (D)
Bob Pipinich (D)
David Rye (R)
Thomas Towe (D)

Members Excused: None

Staff Present: Tom Gomez (Legislative Council)
Christine Mangiantini (Committee Secretary)

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Announcements/Discussion: None

HEARING ON HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 56

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

State Representative Angela Russell opened by saying there is a wide disparity in the prison population. There are more Native Americans being sentenced to prison than the proportion of the population. She continued by saying the University of Montana law school is interested in this project and the State Bar is involved in a gender fairness task force.

Proponents' Testimony:

None.

Opponents' Testimony:

None.

Questions From Committee Members:

Senator Towe asked why the reference was not made to the Select Committee On Indian Affairs.

Mr. Gomez responded that he used the current name in the statute.

Senator Rye asked Representative Russell if she was implying that there is currently a sentencing disparity.

Representative Russell said only 6 percent of the population is comprised of Native Americans, yet 17 percent of those are currently in the corrections system.

Senator Rye asked if 17 percent of the crimes were committed by Native Americans.

Representative Russell responded by saying that was the intent of the study. She continued by saying she would like to look at all issues surrounding Native American crime and sentencing patterns.

Senator Hager asked if the Native Americans convicted of crimes on the reservation were sentenced to federal or state penitentiaries.

Representative Russell said they are sentenced to federal penitentiaries.

Closing by Sponsor:

Representative Russell closed by thanking the committee for the hearing and urged their support.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 56

Motion:

Senator Franklin moved concurrence.

Discussion:

None.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes:

None.

Recommendation and Vote:

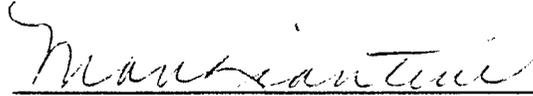
There being 8 ayes and 0 nays the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment At: 7:50 p.m.



SENATOR DOROTHY ECK, Chairman



CHRISTINE MANGIANTINI, Secretary

DE/cm

ROLL CALL

SENATE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE & SAFETY

Date April 24, 1991 Bill No. _____ Time _____

NAME	YES	NO
SENATOR BURNETT	X	
SENATOR FRANKLIN	X	
SENATOR HAGER	X	
SENATOR JACOBSON	X	
SENATOR PIPINICH	X	
SENATOR RYE	X	
SENATOR TOWE	X	
SENATOR ECK	X	

Secretary _____

Chairman _____

Motion: _____

MINUTE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Page 1 of 1
April 25, 1991

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Safety having had under consideration House Joint Resolution No. 1 which reading may be briefly summarized as follows: That House Joint Resolution No. 1 be amended in:

Signed: _____

Donnell Cook
Donnell Cook, Chairman

5
And second.

Donnell Cook
Donnell Cook, Chairman

ROLL CALL VOTE

SENATE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE & SAFETY

Date 04/24/91 HJR Bill No. 56 Time 7:42 p.m.

NAME	YES	NO
SENATOR BURNETT	X	
SENATOR FRANKLIN	X	
SENATOR HAGER	X	
SENATOR JACOBSON	X	
SENATOR PIPINICH	X	
SENATOR RYE	X	
SENATOR TOWE	X	
SENATOR ECK	X	

Secretary _____

Chairman _____

Motion: _____ Senator Franklin moved concurrence.

There being 8 ayes and 0 nays the motion carried.