

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
55th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

FREE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE BILL 517

Call to Order: By CHAIRMAN MIKE FOSTER, on April 16, 1997, at  
7:30 A.M., in ROOM 108.

ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Rep. Paul Sliter (R)  
Rep. Steve Vick (R)  
Rep. Carley Tuss (D)  
Sen. Mike Foster (R)  
Sen. Debbie Bowman Shea (D)  
Sen. Fred Thomas (R)

**Members Excused:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Eddy McClure, Staff Attorney  
Jaelene Racicot, Secretary

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON 517

Discussion:

SEN. FOSTER asked the committee if they had questions. {Tape: 1;  
Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 0.}

Motion:

REP. SLITER MOVED AMENDMENT (HB051725.AEM). {Tape: 1; Side: A;  
Approx. Time Count: 1.5.}

Discussion:

REP. SLITER EXPLAINED WHAT THE AMENDMENTS WERE. {Tape: 1; Side: A;  
Approx. Time Count: 1.8.}

SEN. FOSTER asked Ms. McClure to explain the amendment. Ms. McClure stated that members of the committee and the lobbyists had another set of amendments which had originally started with the bill. Ms. McClure added that the original purpose of REP. VICK'S bill was if an employer withheld wages or salary for political purposes he wanted people to know about it. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 5.6.}

**Motion:** REP. SLITER AMENDED HIS MOTION AND MOVED IN CONCEPT (AS MENTIONED BY MS. MCCLURE). {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 9.8.}

**Discussion:**

SEN FOSTER explained the amendments to REP. TUSS. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 10.2.}

REP. VICK pointed out one change in the definition of political purposes. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 11.2.}

SEN. FOSTER asked if the amendment would expand the bill to go beyond political candidates or parties; it would now apply to ballot issues. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 12.0.}

Ms. McClure stated within REP VICK'S original draft (to apply to ballot issues) was what he intended to do. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 12.8.}

SEN. SHEA stated when HB 517 came out of the Senate, she felt they had addressed all the issues. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 13.3.}

REP. SLITER asked SEN. SHEA how often she signed the check off and she replied when you signed up for the program. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 15.7.}

SEN. FOSTER asked SEN. SHEA if her union dues were delineated from each pay check. SEN. SHEA indicated it was. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 16.8.}

REP. TUSS stated no union dues could be used for political practice. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 19.3.}

SEN. FOSTER wondered what happen to the money after the union collected everyone's dues. REP. TUSS stated the union dues were used administratively and non-political activities. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 20.0.}

SEN. FOSTER stated the MEA was somehow able to make political contributions to candidates or parties and their source of money were dues paid by members. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 20.8.}

SEN. SHEA asked the committee if they could agree to different language and that dues were administrative. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 21.9.}

REP. SLITER stated the MEA currently puts forth \$3 per member toward the political action committee and Mr. Campbell stated he was correct. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 23.0.}

SEN. FOSTER asked if it was a monthly amount and Mr. Campbell said it was annual, more specifically \$3 per year.

REP. SLITER asked Mr. Campbell where the \$3 come from and if it was a separate withholding or did withholding take place from the membership dues. Mr. Campbell said his organization requested \$3 for the political action committee and it would be refunded to those who chose not to participate.

REP. SLITER asked if it was not part of the dues and Mr. Campbell said it was not considered dues.

REP. SLITER asked if it was withheld during the dues withholding and Mr. Campbell said it was withheld at the same time.

REP. VICK stated that the dues were used for political purposes and it was delineated on the pay stub currently. He added they were requiring any additional work on part of the employer. he did not see where there would be "a lot of extra paper work".

SEN. SHEA wondered if the process would become more complicated if the bill with the amendments were to pass. *{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 25.6.}*

SEN. THOMAS asked SEN. SHEA. *{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 26.9.}*

REP. TUSS asked Ms. McClure about political contributions. *{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 28.4.}*

SEN. THOMAS asked Ms. McClure about the amendments. *{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 29.0.}*

SEN. FOSTER referred to the bold type in the amendments and he felt it was beyond the scope of the bill. *{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 0.}*

REP. SLITER spoke to the portions of the amendments that were of concern to SEN. FOSTER. *{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 1.1.}*

Motion: REP. SLITER MOVED TO AMEND HB 517. *{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 2.8.}*

Discussion:

SEN. FOSTER asked REP. SLITER about removing the word charity from the amendment. *{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 5.9.}*

Ms. McClure responded to REP. SLITER. about the language stated as a political action committee. *{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 7.3.}*

SEN. FOSTER asked REP. SLITER about the name of the pack identified on the pay stub. **{Tape: 1; Side: b; Approx. Time Count: 8.2.}**

**Motion:** REP. SLITER MOVED TO AMEND THE AMENDED MOTION AND REMOVE THE WORDS "FOR CHARITY".

**Discussion:**

SEN. FOSTER asked REP. SLITER about the term political committee was not completely defined his intention with the amendments. **{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 9.4.}**

Ms. McClure responded to the concerns of REP. SLITER and SEN. FOSTER. **{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 10.5.}**

SEN. THOMAS clarified what would be delineated from the pay stub. **{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 11.7.}**

REP. SLITER stated the concern could be corrected adding "by the employee". **{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 11.7.}**

SEN. SHEA commented on the suggestion of REP. SLITER. **{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 12.6.}**

REP. SLITER asked Ken Williams, Montana Power Company, how the bill would work from the perspective of an employer. Mr. Williams stated when an employee contributes they sign an authorization form at one time and then after that it would show up as a line item on their pay stub. **{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 13.6.}**

SEN. SHEA asked Jerome Anderson how the bill would work. He said if the bill became so complicated, no one would participate. **{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 15.0.}**

REP. VICK asked Jerome Anderson about the amendments. **{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 17.7.}**

**Motion:** SEN. THOMAS MOVED TO AMEND HB 517. **{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 18.3.}**

SEN. THOMAS WITHDREW HIS MOTION. **{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 19.6.}**

**Discussion:**

SEN. SHEA asked Tom Snider to comment on the amendments. **{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 19.8.}**

SEN. FOSTER asked Eric Feaver to comment on the amendments. **{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 20.7.}**

**Motion:** SEN. THOMAS MOVED TO AMEND HB 517. {Tape: 1; Side: B;  
Approx. Time Count: 22.3.}

SEN. THOMAS asked Larry Akey to comment on the amendments.  
{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 22.3.}

Ms. McClure clarified the language in the amendment. {Tape: 1;  
Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 23.4.}

REP. VICK agreed with Ms. McClure's clarification. {Tape: 1;  
Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 24.6.}

**Motion:** REP. VICK MOVED AMEND HB 517. {Tape: 1; Side: B;  
Approx. Time Count: 25.6.}

**Discussion:**

REP. VICK suggested the committee add "and the amount" in sub  
(a). {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 26.1.}

**Motion:** REP. VICK MOVED TO AMEND AS AMENDED HB 517. {Tape: 1;  
Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 27.3.}

**Discussion:**

SEN. SHEA asked for a clarification of the amendments. {Tape: 1;  
Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 27.9.}

REP. TUSS stated she would reject the amendments. {Tape: 1;  
Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 30.1.}

REP. SLITER clarified the amendments from the Senate compared to  
the amendments from today's amendments. {Tape: 2; Side:A;  
Approx. Time Count: 1.5.}

**Motion/Vote:** REP. VICK MOVED ALL THE AMENDMENTS. A ROLL CALL  
VOTE WAS TAKEN. THE MOTION CARRIED 4 - 2. {Tape: 2; Side: A;  
Approx. Time Count: 3.1.}

**Motion/Vote:** REP. SLITER MOVED HB 517 DO CONCUR AS AMENDED. A  
ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN. THE MOTION CARRIED 4 - 2. {Tape: 2;  
Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 4.0.}

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 8:40 A.M.



SEN. MIKE FOSTER, Chairman



JAELENE RACICOT, Secretary

MF/JR