

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA SENATE  
55th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON SENATE BILL 251**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN TOM KEATING**, on April 16, 1997, at 1:30 p.m., in Room 413.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Thomas F. Keating (R)  
Sen. Dale Mahlum (R)  
Sen. Barry "Spook" Stang (D)  
Rep. Norm Mills (R)  
Rep. Lila V. Taylor (R)  
Rep. Kim Gillan (D)

**Members Excused:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Eddy McClure, Legislative Services Division  
Val Palmer, Committee Secretary

**COMMITTEE HEARING ON SB 251**

**CHAIRMAN KEATING** The purpose of the committee is to address the amendments to SB 251 that were added by the House in Floor action on a motion by **REP. DIANE WYATT**. What is the pleasure of the committee?

**Sponsor: SEN. BARRY "SPOOK" STANG** It's my understanding that **REP. WYATT** added these amendments because she didn't believe that the student nurses were covered and they are in fact covered by health insurance policies. There's no workers' compensation, per se, that's required, but they are covered by health insurance policies. I believe that in some discussions with the University System, they have agreed at least to give these students an option to have a higher degree to cover them. I think if we can all agree, the amendments that were put on in the House could be stripped and the bill could be on its way unless there are some other problems. Marilyn Wetzel is here from the University System to address this if anyone would like to ask her questions.

**CHAIRMAN KEATING** Ms. Wetzel, do you want to address the issue from the university's position?

**Informational Testimony:**

**Marilyn Wetzel, University System** There was a misunderstanding about whether our students who were doing nursing clinical experiences have insurance and they **DO** have insurance. It is required of students that are enrolled on the four campuses and also the colleges of technology that are collocated four year campuses. **REP. WYATT** was particularly concerned about the colleges of technology in Great Falls and Billings. They are covered as well. However, she was really concerned that if you go into a nursing practicum that you might suffer some sort of an exposure to a disease that would leave you with a debilitating situation. She wanted to make sure those students had some additional options for coverage if they chose to take advantage of them at their expense, beyond what's already available to them. The University System has agreed to help those students find that additional option if they choose to use it. We don't need the amendment and **REP. WYATT** has agreed with that. She feels that they are already taken care of and there is no need for any additional legislation in this area. In the letter that you see, it's just our attempt to reassure everybody that if it's wished that we help students look for some additional options at their own expense, we will certainly do that beyond their basic coverage. Chief Legal Counsel, Mr. LeRoy Schramm can give you much more details.

**CHAIRMAN KEATING** We do have a copy of Mr. Schramm's letter (**EXHIBIT #1**) to **REP. WYATT**.

**Motion/Vote:** **SEN. STANG** I MOVED WE STRIP THE HOUSE AMENDMENTS FROM SB 251. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 1:37 p.m.



SEN. THOMAS F. KEATING, Chairman



VALERIE J. PALMER, Secretary

TK/VP