

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
55th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**Call to Order:** By Chairman Norm Mills, on January 16, 1997, at  
3:00 p.m., in Room 104.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Norm Mills, Chairman (R)  
Rep. Chris Ahner, Vice Chairman (Majority) (R)  
Rep. David Ewer, Vice Chairman (Minority) (D)  
Rep. Ellen Bergman (R)  
Rep. Sylvia Bookout-Reinicke (R)  
Rep. Matt Brainard (R)  
Rep. Bill Carey (D)  
Rep. Matt Denny (R)  
Rep. Charles R. Devaney (R)  
Rep. Tim Dowell (D)  
Rep. Antoinette R. Hagener (D)  
Rep. Deb Kottel (D)  
Rep. Bob Lawson (R)  
Rep. Linda McCulloch (D)  
Rep. Daniel W. McGee (R)  
Rep. Wes Prouse (R)  
Rep. Liz Smith (R)  
Rep. Loren L. Soft (R)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Sam Kitzenberg (R)

**Members Absent:** Rep. Jon Ellingson (D)

**Staff Present:** Bart Campbell, Legislative Services Division  
Debbie Thompson, Committee Secretary

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: HB 69, 1/8; HB 140, 1/8; HB  
211, 1/13  
Executive Action: HB 130 TABLED 10-9

**HEARING ON HB 211**

**Sponsor:** Rep. John Rose, HD 87

**Proponents:**

**Alec Hanson, Montana League of Cities and Towns**

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 3.6-8.0.}

**Bob Worthington, MMIA**

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 8.1; Comments: reduces duplication and costs.}

**Ray Barncoat, Montana Association of Counties**

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 9.3.}

**Adam Dahlman, Teton County Commissioners - Exhibit 1, 1a, 1b.**

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 10.1-11.3.}

**Tim Bergstrom**

Opponents: None

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

REP. BOOKOUT questioned Mr. Adam Dolman.

REP. LAWSON

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 14.8; Comments: Rep. Lawson questioned Mr. Alec Hanson.}

REP. DEVANEY

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 18.2; Comments: Rep. Devaney provided information.}

REP. SOFT

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 19.4; Comments: Rep. Soft questioned Mr. Alec Hanson regarding meeting statute requirements.}

REP. BRAINARD

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 21.7; Comments: Rep. Brainard asked about private contracting. Mr. Worthington provided clarification.}

Closing by Sponsor:

Rep. Rose closed.

{Tape: 1; Side: B.}

HEARING ON HB 140

Sponsor: REP. BILLIE KRENZLER, HD 17

Proponents:

Gordon Morris, Montana Association of Counties

Robert Throssell, Montana Association of Clerk and Recorders

Larry Fasbender, Cascade County

Mary Phippin, Montana Association of Clerks of District Court

*{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 5.0}*

Opponents: None

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

CHAIRMAN MILLS

*{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 6.3; Comments: Chairman Mills asked for clarification of the January 1 date.}*

REP. LAWSON

*{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 15.9; Comments: legalities of oral vs. written oath.}*

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. KRENZLER closed.

HEARING ON HB 69

Sponsor: REP. TONI HAGENER, HD 90

Proponents:

Mary Phippin, Montana Association of Clerks of District Court - Exhibit 2, 2a. Ms. Phippin presented two letters, Exhibit 3, 3a.

Opponents:

*{Tape: 2; Side: A.}*

Tom Daubert

Art Klingen, Blaine County Commissioner

Informational Testimony:

Neil Peterson, Department of Revenue

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 3.6; Comments: Transfer of duties needs an amendment to start at the beginning of the year.

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

REP. KOTTEL

REP. MCGEE

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 9.1; Comments: Trustee issue.}

REP. PROUSE

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 12.5; Comments: Rep. Prouse asked John Shontz to clarify property disposal.}

REP. BRAINARD

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 25.7; Comments: Rep. Brainard questioned Mr. Peterson regarding statute of limitation on abandoned property.}

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. HAGENER closed on HB 69.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 130

Motion: REP. KOTTEL moved to discuss the bill.

Discussion: REP. BERGMAN

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 2.5; Comments: Rep. Bergman asked where the money would come from to keep the higher pay level.}

REP. BRAINARD

{Tape: 2; Side: a; Approx. Time Count: 6.7; Comments: Rep. Brainard stated no elected official or worker has a right to expect increased pay-all subject to supply and demand.}

REP. MCGEE

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 14.9-15.7; Comments: Rep. McGee opposed the bill as services would be cut to the people paying the bill.}

**REP. EWER**

*{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 15.8; Comments: Rep. Ewer discussed stability in local government.}*

**Motion/Vote:** REP. KOTTEL moved to DO PASS HB 130. The question was called by Rep. Hagener. Motion FAILED 10-9.

**Vote:** REP. EWER moved to reverse the vote to TABLE HB 130. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:50 p.m.

  
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REP. NORM MILLS, Chairman

  
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DEBBIE THOMPSON, Secretary

NM/dt