

MINUTES

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

COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Call to Order: By Chairman Norm Mills, on January 21, 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. Jon Ellingson (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 Absent: Rep. Sam Kitzenberg (R)

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

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: HB 60-1/8; HB 64-1/8; HB 197-1/13; HB 201-1/13
Executive Action: HB 69 DO PASS AS AMENDED
HB 211 DO PASS AS AMENDED
HB 140 TABLED

HEARING ON HB 60

Sponsor: Rep. Sam Rose, HD 87

Proponents: Albert Carlson, Teton County Commissioners
{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 2.0-5.8; Comments:
Counties replacing ambulances is slow process.}

Gordon Morris, Montana Association of Counties
{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 5.6-7.1; Comments: Bill
would include all cities and county classes.}

Opponents: No opponents

Questions From Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor: Rep. Rose closed
{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 7.7-8.7; Comments:
necessity of ambulances, public health and safety.}

HEARING ON HB 64

Sponsor: Rep. David Ewer, HD 53
{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 9.4; Comments: lightens
accounting requirements for counties, consistency with federal
government.}

Proponents: Newell Anderson, Department of Commerce
{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 12.1-13.9; Comments:
discussed audit requirements, compliance with federal
requirements.}

Gordon Morris, MACO

Alec Hansen, Montana League of Cities and Towns
{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 14.1; Comments: audits
costly to counties, reports are adequate.}

Opponents: No opponents

Questions From Committee Members and Responses: REP. BRAINARD
{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 16.4-18.0; Comments: Rep.
Ewer clarified. Bill covered small counties, offers lesser
control, lower costs.}

Closing by Sponsor: Rep. Ewer closed

HEARING ON HB 201

Sponsor: Rep. Billie Krenzler, HD 17

Proponents: Mike Mathew, President, Montana Association of
Counties {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 22.2; Comments:
explained sense of biannual inventories.}

Gordon Morris, MACO

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

REP. KOTTEL {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 25.6;
Comments: questioned whether machinery was used as security for
loans or bonding.}

Closing by Sponsor: Rep. Krenzler closed

HEARING ON HB 197

Sponsor: Rep. Billie Krenzler, HD 17
{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 1.4; Comments:
consolidation of lighting districts.}

Proponents: Doug Streeter, City Engineers, Billings - Exhibit 1

Mike Mathew, Billings property owner
{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 7.0; Comments: off peak
lighting usage, power rate negotiations possible.}

Alec Hansen, League of Cities and Towns
{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 7.3-8.6; Comments:
reduction of administrative costs, pass on savings.}

Jim Campbell, City of Billings
{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 8.8-10.1; Comments:
suggested amendment that would average assessments within
maintenance districts.}

Opponents: None

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

REP. PROUSE
{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 12.6-15.0; Comments:
questioned average increases. Mr. Streeter explained
consolidation and assessment process.}

Closing by Sponsor: Rep. Krenzler closed HB 197. Bill designed
to benefit property owners.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 1.7.}

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 69

Motion: Rep. Ewer moved HB 69 Do Pass.

Amendments: Rep. Kottel moved to pass the amendment.

Discussion: **REP. KOTTEL** {Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count:
4.0; Comments: Rep. Kottel asked whether the county or state
should be responsible.}

Neil Peterson, Department of Revenue, clarified state's role.

REP. PROUSE {Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 12.4;
Comments: Rep. Prouse pointed out one county made as much as
\$15,000.}

REP. BRAINARD {Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 13.0;
Comments: county did derive benefit at one time. Suggested
finding private enterprise, state may loose money also.}

Motion/Vote: The question was called on the amendment. The
motion passed 14-6.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 16.7.}

Motion/Vote: Rep. Prouse moved HB 69 as amended.

Discussion: CHAIRMAN MILLS {Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count:
19; Comments: Chairman Mills noted counties did well during the
boom, now happy to get rid of the problem-now same burden at the
state level.}

REP. PROUSE State will receive the whole amount rather than 50%
as the counties did.

Motion/Vote: The question was called. The motion passed 10-9.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 211

Motion: Rep. Brainard moved Do Pass HB 211.

Motion: Rep. Carey moved to Pass the amendment.

Discussion: Rep. McGee asked for an explanation. Bart Campbell
explained the amendment.

{Tape: 2; Side: B.}

Rep. Devaney {Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 1.4;
Comments: clarified bill gave unincorporated towns options.}

Rep. Prouse {Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 6.3; Comments:
bill addressed options. Cities have problems funding their fire
departments.}

Vote: The question was called. The motion passed unanimously on
the amendment.

Motion/Vote: Rep. Ahner moved the bill as amended.

Vote: The motion carried as a voice vote to Pass HB 211 with one
no vote by Rep. Smith.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 140

Motion/Vote: Rep. Kottel moved to Do Pass HB 140

Motion/Vote: Rep. Ahner moved to pass the amendment. The question was called. The motion Passed with one no vote by Rep. McGee.

Motion/Vote: Rep. Ahner moved to Pass the bill as amended.
{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 20.4.}

Discussion: Rep. McGee {Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 21.0; Comments: discussed problems of authority.}

Rep. Kottel discussed difference of written vs. oral oath.
Written oath legal.

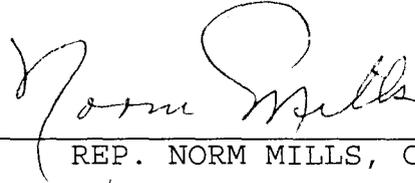
Chairman Mills {Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 25.7;
Comments: written oath puts man on payroll, liability issue.}

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 1; Comments: This was the only thing recorded on Tape 3.}

Motion/Vote: Rep. Brainard moved to Table HB 140. Roll Call Vote 14-5 in favor of Tabling.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:00 p.m.



REP. NORM MILLS, Chairman



DEBBIE THOMPSON, Secretary

NM/dt