

**MINUTES**

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

**COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**Call to Order:** By Vice Chairman David Ewer, on February 4, 1997,  
at 3:00 P.M., in Room 104.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

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. Sam Kitzenberg (R)  
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:** None

**Members Absent:** Rep. Norm Mills, Chairman (R)

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

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: HB 312-1/22  
HB 315-1/22  
HB 316-1/22  
HB 318-1/22  
HB 322-1/22

Executive Action: None

**HEARING ON HB 315**

**Sponsor:** Rep. Billie Krenzler, HD 17

**Proponents:** Mike Mathew, Commissioner of Yellowstone County

Gordon Morris, MACO

**Opponents:** None

**Questions From Committee Members and Responses:** Rep. Bookout to Rep. Krenzler {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 3.5-6.0; Comments: clarified posting places; questioned electronic bulletin boards.}

**Closing by Sponsor:** Rep. Krenzler closed.

**HEARING ON HB 316**

**Sponsor:** Rep. Billie Krenzler, HD 17 {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 6.6; Comments: threshold of bidding, saves money if county could negotiate on smaller projects rather than bid; generally one bidder, not competitive process, does not allow county commissioners to negotiate.}

**Proponents:** Mike Mathew, President Montana Association of Counties {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 8.9; Comments: obtains consistency.}

Gordon Morris, MACO

**Opponents:** None

**Questions From Committee Members and Responses:** {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 12.2-15.0; Comments: Rep. Ewer clarified current statute.}

**Closing by Sponsor:** Rep. Krenzler closed.

**HEARING ON HB 318**

**Sponsor:** Rep. Kim Gillan, HD 11 {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 16.4; Comments: would allow more attendance at professional meetings.}

**Proponents:** Gordon Morris, MACO {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 18-21.5; Comments: **Exhibit 1**, 1a-convention brochure.}

Cort Harrington, Montana County Treasurers Association

**Opponents:** None

**Questions From Committee Members and Responses:** {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 23.2-26; Comments: open ended at counties expense.}

Closing by Sponsor: Rep. Gillan closed.

Vice Chairman Ahner took over the meeting at this point.

HEARING ON HB 312

Sponsor: Rep. Sonny Hanson, HD 9, **Exhibit 2**, 2a, 2b-flow diagram {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 27.5-Tape 1; Side B-8.9; Comments: benefits taxpayer; discussed what counties are getting under present law.}

Proponents: Kathy Fabiano, Office of Public Instruction, **Exhibit 3-Disclosure Issue** {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 8.9-18.5; Comments: bill does not make clear which state agency responsible for collection and dispersement; interest in funds-what are counties doing with the interest.}

Mary Bryson, Director, Department of Revenue {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 18.7-19.9; Comments: concerns of duplication.}

Roger Bergmeier, MON Trust {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 20.0; Comments: help improve management of state funds.}

Gerard Berens, Missoula citizen {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 21.2-Tape: 2; Side A; -4.7; Comments: reduces burden for taxpayers; discussed Lincoln County reserve funds.}

Opponents: Wayne Stahl, citizen and taxpayer {Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 5.0-20.9; Comments: federal government generates funds with specific instructions for each fund for the benefit of counties; state Legislature does not have the right to tell the counties where to put their funds.}

Mike Murray, Lewis and Clark County Commissioner {Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 21.1; Comments: disaster to Lewis and Clark County; discussed bridge repair and 1,300 miles of county roads.}

Don Waldron, Montana Rural Education Association, **Exhibit 4**

Carol Kienenberger, Phillips County Commissioner, **Exhibit 5** {Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 0-8.1; Comments: unable to replace funds, will have to cut services.}

Ken Fleming, Powell County Commissioner, will not have a road fund

Gordon Morris, MACO, **Exhibits-6** letters from County Commissioners, **Exhibit 6a, 6b, 6c, 6d, 6e, 6f**

Art Kleinjan, Blaine County Commissioner, **Exhibit 7, 7a**

Tom Harrison, Montana Society of Certified Public Accountants  
{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 21.5-25.0; Comments:  
discussed concerns regarding resolution of audit findings,  
Department of Revenue-punitive measures; audit scope and  
standards; reasonableness of distributions too open-ended.}

Tom Daubert, Montana Association of Oil, Gas and Coal Counties

Howard Gipe, Flathead County Commissioner, **Exhibit 8** {Tape: 2;  
Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 25.6-26.9; Comments: nine feet of  
snow this year; bill would result in a disaster.}

Tom Allen, Granite County, **Exhibit 9**-letter

Larry Dolezal, Lincoln County, **Exhibit 10**-charts of impacts, 10a-  
letter {Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 27.9-Tape: 3-6.0;  
Comments: endangered communities; dealing with fluxuations.}

Cort Harrington, County Treasurers Association-oppose, concern of  
punitive measures, heavy-handed.

Barbara Evans, Missoula County

Horace Brown, Missoula County Surveyor, **Exhibit 11**

Harold Blattier, Stillwater County

Ward Jackson, Madison County Commissioner

Steve Wheat, Sanders County Commissioner {Tape: 3; Side: A;  
Approx. Time Count: 12.8; Comments: \$320,000 loss, affects  
everybody.}

Rep. Ed Grady, District 55

Informational Testimony: Curt Nichols, Budget Office {Tape: 3;  
Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 14.1.}

Questions From Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor: Rep. Hanson closed. {Tape: 3; Side: A;  
Approx. Time Count: 15.0-20.8; Comments: need to eliminate; will  
net more money into the system; suggested amending the bill.}

#### HEARING ON HB 322

Sponsor: Rep. Linda McCulloch, HD 70 {Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx.  
Time Count: 22.3; Comments: transportation districts.}

Proponents: Mike Kress, Assistant General Manager, Missoula Urban  
Transportation District, **Exhibit 12**, 12a

Gordon Morris, MACO

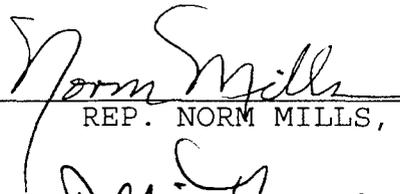
Opponents: None

Questions From Committee Members and Responses: {Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 2.9-4.6; Comments: past attempts to enlarge districts.}

Closing by Sponsor: Rep. McCulloch closed {Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 4.6-5.4; Comments: creates consistency for creating and enlarging districts; public growth, customer base.}

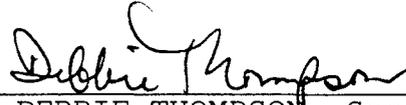
ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:44 P.M.



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REP. NORM MILLS, Chairman



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DEBBIE THOMPSON, Secretary

NM/dt