

MINUTES

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

COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN TOM BECK**, on April 10, 1997, at 3:32 p.m., in Room 405.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Thomas A. "Tom" Beck, Chairman (R)
Sen. Mike Sprague, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Dorothy Eck (D)
Sen. Wm. E. "Bill" Glaser (R)
Sen. John "J.D." Lynch (D)
Sen. Fred R. Van Valkenburg (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Sharon Estrada (R)
Sen. Don Hargrove (R)
Sen. Walter L. McNutt (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Martha Colhoun, Legislative Services Division
Jodi Jones, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: None
Executive Action: HB 500 Tabled

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 500

Discussion:

SENATOR J.D. LYNCH asked why can't people complain to the Legislative Audit Committee without having this bill.

CHAIRMAN TOM BECK said he didn't know if the Audit Committee could accept complaints at the present time.

SENATOR LYNCH said he didn't think there was anything prohibitive in the present law to go and complain.

Martha Colhoun said if the amendments were proposed it will still leave in the mechanism of going through the Legislative Audit Committee. Under present law she was not sure the

Legislative Audit Committee would address a complaint because they do not have statutory mechanism to do so.

SENATOR LYNCH said if someone complains to a government entity, for example the paving of a street and a private contractor wants to complain they can complain to the legislative auditor if they want. He asked what does the legislative auditor do when a person complains now.

CHAIRMAN BECK said this bill just wants to see how many complaints there are and see how serious of a problem this is.

Motion/Vote:

SENATOR MIKE SPRAGUE MOVED TO TABLE HB 500. MOTION CARRIED 6-3 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE (EXHIBIT 1).

Discussion:

SENATOR DOROTHY ECK said there is unhappiness between the public and private sector.

CHAIRMAN BECK said this bill is coming back next session.

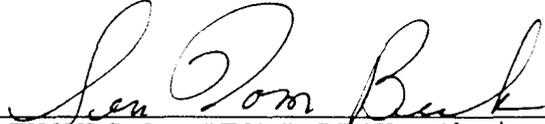
SENATOR SPRAGUE said the facts need to be sorted out first, then come back and write a good bill dealing with these problems.

SENATOR LYNCH said this bill is too encompassing. The people who have problems in the cities should take it to their county commissioners and the legislature should deal with the problems of the state. He said he has no control over the university system, they can complain but he can't do anything about it because he can't control the works of the university.

CHAIRMAN BECK said it is not just the university system, it is the Fish, Wildlife and Parks and other agencies that compete with private enterprise. The economics of this bill also needs to be looked at.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 3:42 p.m.



SEN. THOMAS A. "TOM" BECK, Chairman



JODI JONES, Secretary

TB/jj