

1/7/1977

MINUTES OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 7, 1977

The regular meeting of the Appropriations Committee was called to order by Chairman Bardanouve at 8:35 a.m. Roll call was taken and all members were present. Also present were Joe Quilici, Chairman of the Legislative Administration Committee; Rose Weber, Director of Legislative Council, members of the press, and John LaFaver, Fiscal Analyst.

HOUSE BILL #1: An Act appropriating money for the operation of the Forty-Fifth Legislature and providing an immediate effective date

Representative Lynch made a motion to pass, seconded by Gerke. Chairman Bardanouve stated he would like testimony before accepting the motion and that Mr. Joe Quilci will present additional material. John LaFaver passed out copies of analysis of increases in this year's "feed bill" (copy attached), and made a brief statement of the differences between this session's bill and last session. Largest single item of increase is in per diem and compensation for the legislators. Per diem is raised to \$40 from \$33 last session. Salary is raised to \$31.62 per day from \$20. Significant item in this session's bill not included last session is \$150,000 to Legislative Council for printing of session laws, so actual cost increase from last session is not quite \$648,000. Two items that need to be added are \$2,800 for the salary of Representative Gould's assistant, Jack Melhouse (\$800 per month), and salary for two press aides, one for each house, at approximately \$3,100 each, for a total addition of approximately \$9,700.

Discussion was held on the matter of press aides, with Mr. Quilici explaining that only one would be hired to serve both houses. Pay for the aide would be Grade 10, Step 1, \$5.22 per hour. Job requirements and qualifications of the applicant were discussed, and the question of bipartisanship. Representative Moore asked if we don't already have a Public Information Officer on a full time basis who could perform this service. Rose Weber explained that the Public Information Officer was transferred from the legislature to the Legislative Council and that his function was to inform the public, rather than function as a press aide to the legislators. Representative Lynch made the following motion:

- Amend line 14, section 1, page 1;
- Delete: "251,150"
- Insert: "257,834"

an addition of \$6,324. Motion seconded. Representative Marks moved to divide the matter of Representative Gould's assistant from the hiring of the press aide. Motion seconded. Discussion followed. Representative Lynch moved to accept the legislative press aide. Seconded by Gunderson. Discussion followed on the ability of the legislative aide to be bipartisan and whether the service was necessary. Clarification of the motion was requested.

The Chairman stated there was no question but that the motion was divided, and called for the question on motion to hire press aide. Roll call vote was taken (copy attached). Motion denied.

Representative Lynch moved for the additional remuneration for Representative Gould's assistant. Seconded. Mr. Quilici stated briefly how the amount was arrived at. Question called and the motion passed uananimously.

The Chairman said the question of how many researchers for committees had been hired had arisen. Mr. Quilici stated the following committees have hired researchers:

State Administration	Jennifer Jones
Labor and Employment	Gail Kuntz
Judiciary	James Gardner, Jr.
Committee on Aging	Virginia Jellison
Public Health, Welfare and Safety	Charlotte Solan

Mr. Quilici gave a brief summary of the qualification of researchers hired and the pay rates. Researcher I is Grade 9; Researcher II is Grade 12, Step I, \$5.73 per hour.

Bardanouve stated he had been getting some flak that the Republicans wouldn't get the same treatment from researchers as the Democrats. LaFaver said researchers for Chairmen Brand and Menahan were not in the bill and would have to be added. Discussion followed on overtime and the number of full time researchers already permanently employed by Legislative Council, and if Council researchers would be fully utilized if we hire additional ones. Rose Weber was asked about the Legislative Council's staff and its ability to handle this work. She replied they have 5 full time researchers and 8 full time attorneys, plus Diana Dowling. A staff member had been assigned to each committee in both Houses, but her understanding was that Council's researchers would not be used by some of the committees hiring researchers. Quilici said that as Chairman of the Legislative Administration Committee, it didn't matter to him who the researchers were for the committees, as long as they were qualified and worked well with the chairmen.

Bardanouve said he was getting some feedback that Council researchers would hardly be welcome in the committees. Representative Lynch said he feels the question is can 13 people handle 28 standing committees, and do the committees need additional researchers. He feels they do. The Chairman stated he believes committee chairmen should work with researchers from the Council who have handled legislation in the research area, such as Mr. Hargesheimer on the pay plan, though he does believe some chairmen need additional researchers. Mr. Quilici said the chairmen wanted these particular people and they are qualified. He doesn't know about the reasons for their not wanting researchers on the Legislative Council staff.

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The additional researchers will be House staff and not Council staff.

Representative Aageson made a substitute motion that Aging Committee and Judiciary Committee be separated from the other 3. Motion seconded. Question called. Roll call vote taken (copy attached). Motion carried.

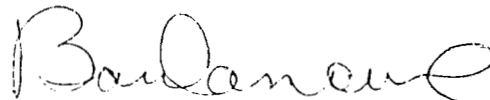
Representative Lynch then moved that researchers for Labor & Employment and Public Health be hired. Estenson seconded. Question called. Roll call vote taken (copy attached). Motion carried.

Representative Gunderson moved that the fifth researcher (State Administration Committee) be hired and with that, that the expertise of the Legislative Council be welcomed and utilized to the fullest by all committees. Seconded by Gerke. Question called. Roll call vote taken (copy attached). Motion carried.

The Chairman then called for a motion to add additional salaries totaling \$6,434 to House Bill #1. Lynch so moved. Gerke seconded. Question called. Motion carried unanimously.

Representative Lynch moved that House Bill #1 AS AMENDED DO PASS. Moore seconded. Roll call vote taken (copy attached). Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.



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Francis Bardanoue, CHAIRMAN



STATE OF MONTANA  
Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst

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HELENA, MONTANA 59601  
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JOHN D. LAFAVER  
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST

January 7, 1977

TO: Members, House Appropriations Committee  
FROM: John D. LaFaver, Legislative Fiscal Analyst  
SUBJECT: Proposed Feed Bill Increases

Last year's feed bills	\$1,684,186
Proposed 45th legislature	<u>2,332,212</u>
Increase	<u>\$648,026</u>

- Increase per diem and compensation of members \$279,085
  - Cost of printing session laws and journals (previously in regular appropriation act) 150,000
  - Attache pay increase 20,970
  - Legislative council increase (some transfer of attache costs) 197,971
- \$648,026

HOUSE COMMITTEE

APPROPRIATIONS

DATE 1 17 1917

BILL NO. 1

TIME 2:10

NAME

YES

NO 17

GERKE, V.C.

BRADLEY

ESTENSON

GUNDERSON, J.

HALVORSON

HANSEN

LYNCH

MANUEL

SOUTH

AAGESON

ELLIS

KVAALEN

LUND

MARKS

MOORE

WOOD

BARDANOUE, CHAIRMAN

Secretary

Chairman

Motion:

*204*









