

JANUARY 10, 1977
PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robbins at 3:30 P.M. The secretary called roll; Representative Bertelsen was excused and Representative Stobie was absent. All other members were present.

Chairman Robbins advised those present of the procedure that will be used in committee hearings.

HOUSE BILL 2: Representative Conroy, chief sponsor, explained that in the existing codes a county can now transfer land for the purpose of parks and recreation and they have inserted cemetery. The reason for this is that the Custer National Cemetery has very limited space left and cannot acquire any additional land next to the present cemetery. Land they can get is down from the park proper. This parcel of land is the site of Old Fort Custer. This bill will not only benefit their county but other counties will also find the same need in the future. We are not building a new cemetery but just an extension of the present cemetery. Custer National Cemetery will be out of space this year making it necessary to provide for an immediate effective date.

Representative Conroy said, in looking at House Bill 2 it was noticed that on line 20 it should be amended to include "recreational grounds" to make it consistant with the wording in line 22.

Representative Conroy had in his possession petitions from various organizations in support of this bill.

Proponents were:

Bob Durkee, representing the State Veterans of Foreign Wars, said they want to endorse this bill, and in the event they are unable to provide more space the nearest national cemetery is at Fort Mead in South Dakota. For the most part spaces are gone in private cemeteries. Hugh "Tony" Cumming, representing the American Legion of Montana, said the American Legion is backing this bill. Roland D. Pratt, representing the Montana Funeral Directors' Association, noted that they have worked with Representative Conroy on this bill. Dan Mizner, representing the Montana League of Cities and Towns, said this is permissive legislation and for the benefit of communities and would go for the amendment. Dean Zinnecker, representing the Montana Association of Counties, said they support this bill.

There were no opponents.

Representative Conroy closed.

The committee went into executive session.

HOUSE BILL 2: It was moved by Representative O'Connell, seconded by Representative Pistoria, that HB 2 be amended on page 1, section 1, line 20, following the word "park" by inserting ", recreational grounds,". Question was called. Motion carried unanimously. It was moved by Representative Palmer, seconded by Representative O'Connell, that HB 2 DO PASS AS AMENDED. Question was called. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Robbins announced that HB 122 will be on the desks on Tuesday.

Representative Gerke said on adjournment of House and Senate on January 17, 18, and 19, there will be a meeting for information and discussion of the bill.

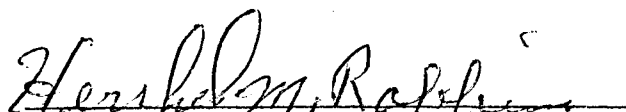
Larry Weinberg said as you are aware the local government bill is large and the sooner you contact him with any questions the sooner he will be able to assist.

Chairman Robbins gave a list of the proposed hearing dates.

There was a brief discussion on the joint meeting of House and Senate and on the number of copies of HB 122 that will be available.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,


Hershel M. Robbins, Chairman

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