

January 21, 1977

A meeting of the Local Government Committee was called to order by Chairman Robbins at 3:50 PM in Room 225. The secretary called roll; Representative Vinger was excused, Representatives Halvorson, Palmer, and Ramirez were absent. All other members were present.

HOUSE BILL 195: Representative Lynch, chief sponsor, explained this is a very easy bill to raise the salaries of sheriffs in various counties. This bill would bring them a more adequate salary.

Proponents to speak were:

Tom Dowling, representing the Montana Sheriff's and Peace Officer's Association, said this bill is asking you to give the sheriffs a \$100 a month raise in 1977 and in 1978 another \$100 a month. The sheriffs have proposed this bill and feel it treats them fairly.

Dale E. Dye, representing the Montana Sheriff's and Peace Officer's Association and Ravalli County, spoke in support of this bill and comments are - exhibit 1.

Walter L. Hammermeister, Sheriff, Conrad, spoke and written comments are - exhibit 2.

Dean Betzer, Sheriff's Association President, said this amounts to approximately an 8% increase.

Opponents were:

Dean Zinnecker, representing the Montana Association of Counties, said they oppose this bill and the salaries should be set at the local level.

Those leaving signed witness sheets in support of HB 195 were:
John C. Krsul, Sheriffs

James R. Burns, Cascade County Sheriff's Department

Glenn Frame, Montana Sheriff's Association

L. John Onstad, Gallatin County Sheriff's Department, Bozeman

Cap Bryant, Montana Sheriff's and Peace Officer's Association,
comments are - exhibit 3.

A signed witness sheet opposed was from Richard C. Thomas, taxpayer, Billings.

The hearing was opened to questions by the committee members. Representative South questioned Tom Dowling about the deputy sheriffs' salaries.

Representative Lynch closed on HB 195.

HOUSE BILL 187: Representative Pistoria, chief sponsor, said he was unaware the bill was going to be heard so soon, and he does not have all of his testimony. After the hearing he would appreciate an extension of his testimony until later. The purpose of the bill is to require a vote by the electorate for certain services that may be provided by purchasing the services from a private or public vendor. This would still allow the local government to do all other work. In writing this bill they left out parking, and he would like to submit an amendment to page 1, section 1, line 12, following: "garbage collection," insert: "parking". Representative Pistoria explained the reason for this bill as being a result of what was happening in Great Falls, and he felt the city should provide and maintain services.

Proponents were:

Representative O'Connell, District 34, spoke in support as a taxpayer and citizen and felt the people should have some say as to where their money is spent.

Les Nilson, representing the Montana State Firemen's Association, said they don't feel these services should be farmed out unless by a mandate of the people.

Stan Gerke, field representative of the Montana State Council No. 9, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, spoke in support and written testimony is - exhibit 4.

Others leaving signed witness sheets in support of HB 187 were: Ed Johnston, Montana State Firemen's Association. Walter L. Hammermeister, Sheriff, Conrad.

Opponents were:

Dan Mizner, representing the Montana League of Cities and Towns, said he is opposed to the bill and under competitive bidding law they have many small cities that have contracted services at much less cost. This bill does not distinguish between city and county. There is conflict in law in regards to inter-local agreements. It is not the right thing to do to write a piece of legislation for all cities and towns. Harlem has never had a garbage system themselves have always contracted out.

John H. Toole, Montana League of Cities and Towns, Missoula, said in speaking for city of Missoula they have contracted out their garbage service, and they would like to ask what will happen in the case of city-county agreement.

Al Thelen, Helena, said the bill should be considered by each city legislative body and not the state legislature. It will hamper city officials in providing a program of services to its citizens.

Dean Zinnecker, representing the Montana Association of Counties, is opposed.

Representative Pistoria said in closing this bill is not going

to force the city that presently has a contract to have to vote. In the case of expiration or discontinuance then yes.

The committee went into executive session on HB 187.

Chairman Robbins said as a courtesy to the sponsor he will allow Representative Pistoria to bring in testimony, and in executive session the committee will take this testimony into consideration.

The committee went out of executive session.

Chairman Robbins advised the committee that Dale Harris, director of the State Commission on Local Government will continue with the explanation of House Bill 122.

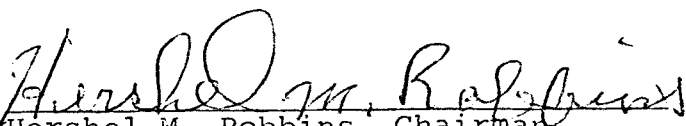
Mr. Harris spoke on the provisions for setting salaries and duties of elected officials by county commissioners. They would establish the salaries for elected county officials after a public notice and hearing and before the election. Duties are assigned by the state under existing law, but under HB 122 duties are assigned by state law and by the county commissioners. The county commissioners have to do it by ordinance, but certain public administrative duties cannot be taken away. Duties can only be added.

Other issues the committee will have questions on are mandatory boards; taxes, single versus all-purpose; contracted services; annexation and fire districts; and county printing.

E. J. Bowlds, staff researcher of the State Commission on Local Government spoke on the trafficways portion of the code. Areas covered were with surveying functions, surveyor, vacating right of ways, acquiring right of ways, and responsibilities of maintaining bridges.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted


Hershel M. Robbins, Chairman