

January 22, 1977

A joint hearing of the Senate and House Local Government Committees was called to order by Senator McCallum, chairman of the Local Government Committee of the Senate, in the House Chambers of the State Capitol Building at 11:25 AM.

Roll call was taken; all members of the House Committee on Local Government were present with the exception of Representative Halvorson who was absent.

Senator McCallum said the purpose of the joint meeting is to hear testimony on House Bill 122.

Representative Robbins, chairman of the House Local Government Committee, announced the scheduled hearings to be held by his committee on House Bill 122.

HOUSE BILL 122:

The chair recognized Representative Gerke, principal sponsor, who made the opening remarks to House Bill 122.

Representative Gerke introduced the people who were appointed to the State Commission on Local Government:

Senator C. R. Thiessen
Former Senator Glen L. Drake
Representative Carrol V. South
John Nesbo, County Commissioner
Mel Wollan, County Commissioner
Ray M. Lynch, Mayor
Harold A. Fryslie, Former City Manager
Thomas Payne, Professor

Senator Thiessen was introduced and spoke on the input and work that has gone into House Bill 122.

Glen L. Drake, former Senator of Lewis and Clark County, spoke on major issues that are in House Bill 122.

Chairman McCallum opened the meeting to testimony on House Bill 122.

PROPOSERS TO SPEAK WERE:

Dean Zinnecker, executive director of the Montana Association of Counties, prepared testimony is - exhibit 1.

Dale Skaalure, county commissioner from Chouteau County, representing the Montana Association of Counties.

Joe A. DeLong, Somers, Montana, Representing the Local Government Advisory Council.

Chuck Painter, representing Missoula County, said the business of government is services, and they need uniform procedures.

Larry D. Anderson, county Commissioner of Liberty County, expressed his support and read a letter from the Hill County Board of County Commissioners that the bill should be passed in its entirety.

Ludvig G. Browman, representing the Missoula County Commissioners, copy of statement is - exhibit 2.
Ed McCaffree, representing Rosebud County and District 3 County Commissioners Association.
John St. Jermain, Cascade County Commissioner.
John Nesbo, Toole County and State Commission on Local Government.

The hearing recessed from 12:30 to 1:05 for lunch.

Mrs. Fitzpatrick, member of the Deer Lodge County Study Commission and as a citizen.
Dan Mizner, representing the Montana League of Cities and Towns.
Jerry Hawkins, city of Dillon
Clark Tousley, city of Scobey, written testimony is - exhibit 3.
Al Thelen, city manager of Helena, written testimony is - exhibit 4.
Marie McAlear, representing Montana League of Cities and Towns, prepared testimony is - exhibit 5.
Harold Mercer, Sidney, Montana League of Cities and Towns.
Ray M. Lynch, mayor of Dillon and representing the Montana League of Cities and Towns.
Harry Simons, city of Shelby.
Polly Prchal, representing city of Billings and the Montana League of Cities and Towns, comments are - exhibit 6.
Marie Thompson, city of Billings and the League of Cities and Towns, comments are - exhibit 7.
George Beardslee, Montana Municipal Clerks, Treasurer, and Finance Officer's Association.
Keith Keller, representing the Montana League of Cities and Towns.
B. Dean Holmes, city of Miles City.
Mike McCone, city of Butte.
Robert E. Brown, city of Missoula, support and amend.
Tom Crowley, city of Missoula, support and amend.
John Toole, representing the Montana League of Cities and Towns.
Harley Warner, city of Helena.
Ray Bainhart, city of Columbia Falls.
Colleen Allison, city of Columbia Falls.
Bruce Harris, city of Sidney.
Ray Thrailkill, city of Hamilton and the Montana League of Cities and Towns.
Roger J. Bergstrom, city of Columbia Falls, Councilman.
Mary Negoumy, representing citizens concerned with public libraries, comments are - exhibit 8.
Lauren McKinsey, representing self.
Darlene Grove, representing the League of Women Voters, prepared testimony is - exhibit 9.
Jim Nybo, self, prepared statement is - exhibit 10.
Margery Brown, representing the League of Women Voters, Missoula.
Lucile Speer, self, Missoula

Barbara Evens, representing Citizens for Court Improvement and Missoula Police Commission, support and amend.
Betty Boettger, self, prepared statement is - exhibit 11.
Jean M. Bowman, self, Billings, prepared statement is - exhibit 12.
Sandra Whitney; self, Helena.
Irene Snell, representing Silver Bow County Study Commission.
Margaret Leary, representing the city of Butte Local Government Study Commission.
Carol A. Heald, representing the Billings City Study Commission, prepared testimony is - exhibit 13.
Robert R. Johnson, representing the Association of Local Health Departments.
James Freeman, representing State Mosquito Abatement Advisory Council, Montana Mosquito and Vector Control Association, Triangle Council Montana Weed Control Association, prepared testimony is - exhibit 14.
John P. Weigand, representing the Montana Fish and Game Department, letter and prepared statement is - exhibit 15.
Daniel L. Burkhart, The Stillwater News, amend and comments are - exhibit 16.
Thomas Payne, member of the State Commission on Local Government.
John Richards, legislative committee of the Montana Association of Planners.
Noel Rosetta, representing the Audobon Society, Environmental Information Center Sierra Club.
Judith H. Carlson, self, Helena.
Dean A. Neitz, Montana Press Association, to amend.
Harold Stearns, self, Helena, to amend and prepared statement is - exhibit 17.
Merrill H. Klundt, representing Clerk and Records Association, comments are - exhibit 18.

OPPONENTS TO SPEAK WERE:

Wesley W. Stearns, Sanders County District #10 and myself, to amend.
John Justin Sullivan, representing the Montana Association of County Superintendents.
William Conklin, representing the State Library Commission, prepared testimony is exhibit 19.
Don Judge, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, comments are - exhibit 20.
Sally Jo M. Price, representing the Assessor's Association and self, comments are - exhibit 21.
Al Sampson, representing the Montana State Firefighter's Association, comments are - exhibit 22.
Senator Margaret S. Warden, representing libraries and the Montana Library Association, prepared testimony is - exhibit 23.

There was a 5 minute recess.

Dale E. Dye, representing the Montana Sheriff's and Peace Officer's Association.

January 22, 1977

Page 4

Walter L. Hammermeister, Sheriff and a taxpayer, Conrad.
John Bell, representing the Clerk and Records Association.
Donald F. McKeever, self, Helena.

The following people have asked that there letters be made
part of the record of HB 122:

George Turman, commissioner of the Public Service Commission.
George Lackman, commissioner of the Department of Agriculture.

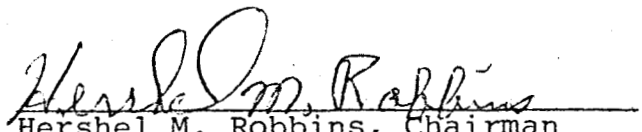
People leaving signed witness statements or testimony who did
not speak are - exhibit 24.

Representative Gerke closed on House Bill 122.

There were no questions by the committee members.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted


Hershel M. Robbins, Chairman
House Local Government Committee

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