

January 24, 1977

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS:

A meeting of the House Labor and Employment Relations Committee was held on Monday, January 24, 1977 at 3:30 p.m. in Room 428A of the State Capitol. All members were present.

A film was shown in which the 1976 Unemployment Insurance Amendments to federal law were outlined.

The first bill to be heard was HOUSE BILL 244, sponsored by Rep. Kimble. The chair was turned over to Vice-Chairman Williams, who invited testimony on this bill. Rep. Kimble explained the bill's content in brief. Mr. Fred Barrett, Employment Security Division, then spoke in favor of the bill. Mr. Harold V. Kansier, also of the Employment Security Division, was an additional proponent. The contribution system provided for would not collect additional contributions but would provide a rating system to restore benefits paid to the government entities. The fiscal note provides that that increase in revenue to the agency will apply only to the increase in taxable wage bases. This is not intended to bring in more revenue, only to offset benefits. Expected increases in revenue for Fiscal Year 1978 would amount to \$900,000 and in Fiscal Year 1979 it would be \$3 million. There were no further proponents.

There were no opponents to HB 244. Questions were asked and it was established that this bill was written to comply with the federal change in law.

HOUSE BILL 245, sponsored by Rep. Lynch, was then heard. It was another on the series of bills the film was about; the bill refers to the jobs which have been added to unemployment insurance in the federal law. Mr. Harold Kansier then spoke on this bill. It provides for the coverage of agricultural employees, domestic workers and employees of private non-profit schools. It provides for a definition of 'crew leader' relating to agricultural occupations, as either an employee of the farmer or an employer in his own right. There were no other proponents.

There were no opponents to HOUSE BILL 245. The hearing was closed on this bill.

The next bill to be heard was HOUSE BILL 258. Rep. Kanduch, as chief sponsor, explained the bill in short and turned the testimony over to Mr. Barrett for further explanation. The stricken language in this bill has no application to current law; it is just being removed. There being no further proponents and no opponents, the hearing was closed.

HOUSE BILL 239 was heard. The chairman took the prerogative of judgement and introduced the bill in Rep. Brand, the chief sponsor's

absence. Mr. Barrett then stated that the federal requirement dealing with school employees is pretty specific and enlarges upon the present Montana law; more specifically it enlarges on the denial aspect of Montana law. Benefits are to be denied to illegal aliens and at present our laws are silent concerning this. The bill is not talking about income per se, but rather benefits saved. It is a saving in benefits in particular because of the restrictive nature of these amendments. Mr. Wayne Buchanan, Director of Special Services for the Montana School Board Assoc., then spoke; see attached statement. There were no further proponents.

There were no opponents. Questions were then asked. The sponsor Rep. Brand then appeared. He suggested an amendment which would delete the term 'reasonable' and insert in its place 'written'. This amendment was asked for by people in the school industry. There was much discussion about this amendment.

The committee then went into executive session. Rep. Ellerd moved and Rep. Turner seconded that HB 239 DO PASS. Rep. Lynch in a substitute motion moved to amend the bill according to Rep. Brand's proposal. Rep. Baeth seconded this motion. Discussion followed. It was the feeling of some of the committee members that such an amendment would change the entire bill. Rep. Lynch then made a motion for all motions pending that the bill be passed for the day. It was agreeable to the committee to continue hearing on this bill to Friday, Jan. 28, so testimony could be heard concerning the amendment. The motion to pass the bill for the day passed unanimously.

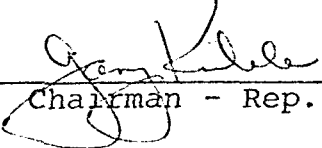
Hearing on HOUSE BILL 241 was postponed at the request of Rep. Dassinger and with the approval of all present, until Friday, Jan. 28.

Rep. Williams moved that HOUSE BILL 245 DO PASS. Rep. Teague seconded the motion; motion carried with Reps. Porter and Sivertsen opposed.

Rep. Lynch moved HOUSE BILL 244 DO PASS; Rep. Baeth seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Rep. Kanduch moved that HOUSE BILL 258 DO PASS; Rep. Lynch seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

  
Chairman - Rep. Gary N. Kimble

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Secretary