

February 8, 1977

The Natural Resources subcommittee on Conservation and Public Participation met at 8:30 a.m. in room 435 on February 8, 1977 with Chairman Bengtson presiding and Reps. Curtiss, Davis and Nathe present.

Chairman Bengtson opened the meeting to a discussion of bills dealing with the building codes: HBs 425 and 430 and Senate Bill 401.

Chairman Bengtson asked if the committee thought HB 425 was getting too specific on page 4.

Sonny Hanson mentioned there were rules and regulations on the books.

Rep. Curtiss objected to section 3 of SB 401 as it placed mandatory regulations on the counties and said if they didn't do it the state would.

It was determined that only public buildings in the counties were being added. Gene Huntington witnessed to this. It was said that the only code that applies to private homes is the State Housing Code. The intent of the committee is to reorganize the building code and not to expand it.

There was discussion on a state tax credit program to encourage people to insulate above standards. Mr. Gignoux suggested using a measurement of BTU per square foot so as not to get into specifics. It was mentioned as people paid more for energy they would insulate more.

Rep. Nathe moved that the committee delete the specific reference in HB 425 and have standards set up by the building code council. The motion passed unanimously.

Rep. Curtiss asked if a resolution to give recommendations of minimum standards to the building code council could be prepared.

Sonny Hanson suggested amending HB 430 to put in recommendations for adoption of an energy budget, as this would go directly to the building code council.

When asked about this Debbie Schmidt said she would need to study the bill to make sure if it could be added. She felt it would be better to put the recommendations into a bill rather than a resolution.

Mr. Hanson said both bills would go to the Department of Administration-- 401 would have the code making authority and 430 would say we are going to have energy laws on the books by a certain date.

Chairman Bengtson said this is already stated in HB 430. She felt Mr. Kimble's recommendations for minimum standards could be put into that bill.

Chairman Bengtson drew the committee's attention to section 8 on page 6 of HB 425--energy conservation planning in subdivisions.

Mr. Gignoux said he felt there was a definite need for energy and this requirement wouldn't add any extra burden on the subdividers and he felt it should be adopted.

Mrs. Groves, League of Women Voters, questioned if SB 401 would take care of this.

Debbie suggested providing an information obtaining vehicle by having a section say that the Department of Community Affairs will provide subdividers with information on the orientation of houses to conserve energy.

Mr. Hanson questioned if the department would have anyone with the expertise to handle this. Mr. Gignoux said it would not take an engineer to tell you how to save energy by the way you set your building and plant trees.

In further discussion it was brought out that cities have control within 4 1/2 miles of the city limits on subdivisions.

Chairman Bengtson requested Russ Plath to check and see if SB 401 contains energy provisions for subdivisions. She asked the committee to go on to section 10. She said the resolution on education would take care of this if we could incorporate public libraries in it. Debbie was going to check on this.

Chairman Bengtson drew attention th tax incentives on page 5, sections 5 and 6. It was decided to consider those with the other tax incentive bills. Russ was going to check this on SB 401 also.

On to renewable energy, section 11. Rep. Nathe said this is redundant as the committee is dealing with it in HBs 155 and 156. He moved to delete that section from this bill. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Bengtson now had the committee turn to page 11, section 12, which deals with an award for an outstanding energy project. Rep. Nathe expressed a desire to have this go to help fund AERO which he felt had done an outstanding job of educating people about conservation. The committee felt this group should be given recognition and a joint resolution was suggested to do this.

Chairman Bengtson told her committee to review the tax incentive bills for tomorrow: HBs 425 and 292 and SBs 167 and 348.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Esther Bengtson, Chairman