

MINUTES OF MEETING
HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE LEGISLATURE

February 17, 1977

The meeting of the House Rules Committee was called to order by Rep. Meloy, Chairman, on the above date in Room 343 at 1:00 P.M.

Members of the committee present were:

Rep. Bardanouve	Rep. Driscoll	Rep. Marks
Rep. Bradley	Rep. Fagg	Rep. Meloy
Rep. Brand	Rep. Kvaalen	Rep. Moore

Rep. Brand asked that the Rules Committee discuss the introduction of two pending resolutions. One of these concerns a form for the Commissioner of Campaign Practices which prescribes debits and credits. He said that it needed to be amended and that there was no time.

Rep. Marks suggested that the resolution be introduced as is and then amended.

Rep. Brand said the other resolution was regarding timber and was sponsored by Rep. Curtiss. He said that the State Administration Committee had concurred unanimously with the resolution.

Rep. Fagg said that the resolution should be introduced and then amended.

Rep. Meloy stated that it still must go to the committee for hearing.

Rep. Brand asked if they should be submitted and have a number put on them today?

Rep. Meloy responded in the affirmative.

Rep. Kvaalen said he thought they still had to come to the Rules Committee.

Rep. Brand said that these were two important resolutions and that they had the unanimous consent of the State Administration Committee.

Rep. Kvaalen said that they would still need the approval of the Rules Committee.

Rep. Marks moved that the two resolutions be allowed. The motion carried unanimously.

Rep. Meloy stated that the committee should now act on the annual sessions bills. Discussion was then opened on House Bill 297.

Rep. Driscoll moved that the committee recommend House Bill 297 do pass.

A vote was taken. Voting aye were Representatives Bardanouve, Bradley, Brand, Driscoll, Fagg, Marks, and Meloy. Voting nay were Representatives Kvaalen and Moore. The motion carried.

Rep. Bardanouve asked if the committee thought this would become a partisan issue.

Rep. Moore felt that few Republicans would go for any annual sessions bill. He thought that if they went with House Bill 213 that 60 votes could be mustered if there were a carryover provision and a limitation on the second session.

Rep. Fagg thought that one bill should be sounded out and then amended if necessary, not three bills.

Rep. Driscoll asked if the motion could be called back and send the most restrictive bill out of committee, then the next most restrictive, and so on.

Rep. Bradley felt a problem was that the legislature could not call itself into session.

Rep. Meloy said there was no problem there, that it was in the present constitution and that the legislature has the option of extending the session now and of calling special sessions.

Rep. Bardanouve asked which bill would be able to get the most votes.

Rep. Meloy explained that House Bill 223, House Bill 213, and House Bill 297 differed only in terms of restrictions.

Rep. Driscoll said he thought the bill that had the best chance of getting through was Rep. Gerke's bill with the addition of one restriction: allowing bills that repeal statutes to be introduced in the second session.

Rep. Moore felt that were any bill other than House Bill 223 introduced, three or four votes would be lost.

Rep. Bradley said she wanted to get to the bottom of this. She wondered if it were the contents of the bill or the fact that it has Rep. Moore's name on it that was his concern. She wondered if a committee bill would be possible.

Rep. Kvaalen stated he would vote against all of the bills but that he liked Rep. Driscoll's bill best. He said that the legislature could already do the things mentioned in the other bills.

Rep. Marks said that no matter which bill was sent to the floor, there was going to be an attempt made to amend it.

Rep. Meloy felt a problem was that there may be people who never would vote in favor of annual sessions and that because of that there was no way to get a reading as to what the vote would be.

Rep. Brand thought it might be better to send the most liberal bill out and then make it more restrictive.

Rep. Bardanoue remarked that there was a member of the committee who wanted to liberalize and a member who wanted more control, and that their reasons seemed to be opposite.

Rep. Meloy felt that this only reflected the unanimity of the committee that annual sessions were needed.

Rep. Moore remarked that if we had legislative oversight, then he wouldn't care if they only met once every four years.

Rep. Moore moved that the committee recommend House Bill 223 do pass.

Rep. Kvaalen made a substitute motion that House Bill 223 be tabled.

A vote was taken on Rep. Kvaalen's motion. Representatives Bardanoue, Brand, Driscoll, Fagg, Kvaalen, and Marks voted aye and Representatives Bradley, Meloy, and Moore voted nay. The motion carried.

House Bill 213 was discussed next.

Rep. Kvaalen moved that House Bill 213 be tabled. A vote was taken and Representatives Brand, Kvaalen, Marks, and Moore voted aye, and Representatives Bardanoue, Bradley, Driscoll, Fagg, and Meloy voted nay. The motion failed.

Rep. Driscoll then moved that House Bill 213 do pass. Voting aye were Representatives Bardanoue, Bradley, Driscoll, and Meloy. Voting nay were Representatives Brand, Fagg, Kvaalen, Marks, and Moore. The motion failed.

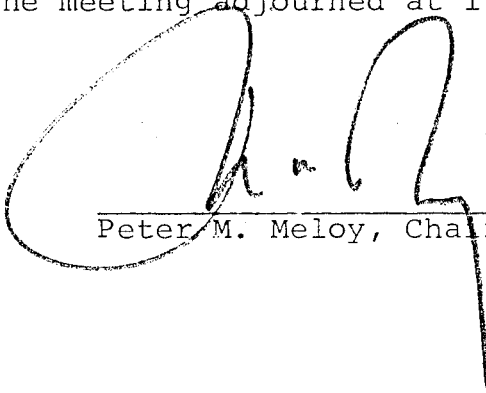
Rep. Brand wondered why Rep. Driscoll's bill couldn't be amended.

Rep. Driscoll felt that House Bill 213 was the one that was most likely to pass.

Rep. Bradley said that if it were true that three or four votes would be lost if House Bill 223 were not the one presented to the floor, then she would have to support 223.

Rep. Marks felt that there should be only one implement. He moved that House Bill 213 be tabled. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:30 P.M.



Peter M. Meloy, Chairman