

February 23, 1977

PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS:

A short executive meeting of the House Public Health, Welfare and Safety Committee was held on Wednesday, February 23, 1977 on adjournment of the House in Room 431 of the State Capitol. All members were present with the exception of the Chairman Rep. Menahan and Reps. Colburn, Gould, Harper and Lynch, who were excused. Vice Chairman Holmes called the meeting to order.

The purpose of the meeting was to reconsider action on the following bills:

HOUSE BILL 300. Rep. Palmer moved to reconsider action on the committee's DO NOT PASS AS AMENDED recommendation of February 22, 1977. Rep. Stobie seconded the motion; motion carried with Rep. Ryan opposed. Rep. Feda then moved that HB 300 DO PASS AS AMENDED, motion carried with Rep. Ryan opposed. Rep. Stobie then moved to include in the previous motion the additional amendment proposed by the Board of Radiologic Technologists, which amended Section 66-3708, R.C.M. 1947. Motion carried with Rep. Kenny opposed. Reps. Kenny and Ryan were the only opponents to the bill in this final amended version.

HOUSE BILL 387 had previously been voted on by the committee. On the meeting of February 8, 1977 the motions of DO PASS and DO NOT PASS had both failed via roll call vote. Rep. Kimble at this time moved once again that HOUSE BILL 387 DO NOT PASS. Rep. Ryan made a substitute motion to not reconsider action on the bill. The chair ruled that Rep. Ryan's motion not to reconsider was in order. Discussion followed. Rep. Feda then moved that the bill DO NOT PASS. Motion carried with Rep. Cooney opposed.

HOUSE BILL 756 - Rep. Holmes explained to the committee that when the Dept. of SRS found out how the amendments to this bill had been revised, they informed the proponents that it would be impossible for them to implement the bill. (1) Medical assistance payments come out of Baltimore, not this state. (2) The Dept. of SRS cannot handle 6% interest on all the late checks that go to all the hospitals in the state from Medicaid and Medicare in Washington. The Dept. of SRS wishes to remove the amendments which the committee accepted and to insert in their place the amendments which Rep. Holmes distributed to the committee at this time. These amendments would limit the bill so that it removes the recipients and patients in foster, group and nursing homes, and does not try to include medical or health care provider payments, but just the payments to the recipients. They can do this, but are opposed to the bill if the originally accepted amendments remain in it.

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The sponsor is in favor of the original amendments, but feels that this alternative is better than nothing. Discussion followed. Rep. Porter wanted something in the bill to protect the hospitals and nursing homes. The feeling expressed by some of the committee members was that the Dept. of SRS was playing games with the committee. Rep. Palmer agreed with Rep. Porter's statements. He said that in the subcommittee on the Problems of the Elderly it had been found that there is a discrepancy in time and that the Dept. of SRS is at fault. Rep. Stobie moved and Rep. Feda seconded that action on HB 756 be not reconsidered. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

Polly Holmes
Vice Chairman - Rep. Polly Holmes

Secretary