

March 28, 1977

The Natural Resources Subcommittee on Solid Wastes met on March 28, 1977, at 11:04 a.m., in room 437 with Chairman Bengtson presiding and Reps. Curtiss and Cooney present. Also present was Terry Carmody and Steven Turkiewicz.

Chairman Bengtson said she was not at first in favor of using Renewable Resource Program money for this purpose but had come to the conclusion that it was a good use and a renewable resource. Also only the initial \$300,000 would be planning grant money--the rest would be in the form of loans and return to the program.

Senator Warden said the initial grant money would go to up to 15 area wide solid waste dumps and three of the five potential resource recovery areas. She said HB 708 spells it out more fully.

Chairman Bengtson opened the meeting to a consideration of the amendments to SB 175. Discussion was made on the first amendment.

Rep. Cooney asked if the facilities would eventually be self supporting. In response to this Mr. Carmody said solid waste should be on a fee for service and should not be supported by a property tax--he said it would make as much sense to fund electrical bills with a property tax. He said the most economical way to do this is with area wide disposal areas created by adjacent communities. More economical when compared with proper disposal--not burning dumps.

Rep. Curtiss expressed mixed feelings on this amendment; Rep. Cooney felt if adopted it would be like opening up a can of worms. Rep. Bengtson said she didn't see how it could work--how would it be monitored.

Rep. Curtiss asked what our position will be if the federal government cuts back on the coal tax fund. Rep. Bengtson felt we can't operate on a "what if" or there wouldn't be any programs at all--must look forward and plan.

Rep. Curtiss asked if it were necessary to define grant funds. Mr. Turkiewicz said if you limit it to the amount of money appropriated by the legislature it would not be as offensive a change as foreseen. Senator Warden said it goes back to revenue sharing and that is the only way the state can do anything about this.

Mr. Turkiewicz asked if this grant money was to be for resource recovery only. He said as defined it really doesn't cover landfill dumps. Rep. Curtiss said if the bill just opened the way to resource recovery she would be against it. Mr. Carmody said it is not limited to only resource recovery. Upon checking the language in lines 16 through 22 on page 3, Chairman Bengtson felt the flexibility was there to use for both landfills and resource recovery.

Rep. Curtiss suggested in amendment 1 to strike "state" from before "money".

Senator Warden said if you take out lines 16 through 22 on page 3 you are not covering what should be covered. She said if you want legislative control you should leave it as is--if you want the cities and counties to get the money with no strings attached take it out. She said she would not like to see the money put into the counties and

cities without some control. She said if the private sector is interested in getting into resource recovery--the bill so provides.

Rep. Cooney moved that Amendments 1, 2 and 3 of SB 175 be not concurred in. Motion carried with Rep. Curtiss opposing.

Chairman Bengtson opened the meeting to a consideration of amendment 4. This amendment strikes "upon" on page 8, line 16, and inserts "at any time following the" which the local government lobbyist felt gave the local governments a better chance to opt out of the program if they so wished. Mr. Turkiewicz felt this clarified the language. Sen. Warden felt it was changing words for the sake of changing words--that local governments have the option of not taking part so this is unnecessary.

Rep. Curtiss asked if the voters would be given the opportunity of voting on whether or not they wished to adopt a plan like this. She said when they went into their solid waste program they voted on it. Mr. Carmody said this was up to the counties--they are not restricted. Mrs. Warden said elected people pass the ordinances and the public has the right to be heard.

Rep. Curtiss moved adoption of amendment 4. Reps. Cooney and Bengtson opposed the adoption so the motion failed.

Chairman Bengtson opened the meeting to the consideration of amendment 5, which is deleting lines 1 through 20 on page 14.

Mr. Turkiewicz said he would not like to see the financing restricted to this one method. Mr. Carmody asked how else you would measure solid wastes except by the ton.

Senator Dunkle being present was asked if he had anything to add. He said the bill had been discussed at length in their committee. One point coming through was that this should not be paid for by a mill levy.

Mr. Turkiewicz said the PSC has ruled need to find ^{an} alternate method of financing. He said with charging fees there is a possibility you may not get to the point where you are at the break even point.

Senator Warden said it was being taken out of context and read the part of the bill applying to it. She said after you have come to the determination of what it is going to cost you will enter into an agreement to pay the loan back.

Mr. Turkiewicz said it is difficult to make a contractual obligation for 20 years or so down the road with agreement to pledge any available money. He said it limits the flexibility by not allowing the use of taxes in this particular area. Mr. Carmody said the only time there would be a problem to meet the loan is if there was a mass exodus from the area.

Rep. Cooney moved this amendment be not adopted. Motion carried with Rep. Curtiss opposing. Rep. Cooney moved the subcommittee recommend to the committee that SB 175 Be Concurred In as is. Motion carried with Rep. Curtiss voting no.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Ethel Bengtson