

MINUTES OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
State Capitol, Room 225

March 31, 1977

The meeting of the House Appropriations Committee was called to order on the above date by Representative Bardanouye, Chairman, at 8:00 a.m. Roll call was taken with a quorum present; see attached roll call. Executive action was taken on the following:

House Bill 531: Rep. Gerke moved to reconsider actions taken the previous night on this bill. VOTE: The motion carried unanimously with a voice vote.

Rep. Bradley moved that the \$200,000 be amended down to \$80,000 for the biennium. VOTE: The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Rep. Bradley moved that H.B. 531 be given an AS AMENDED DO PASS recommendation. VOTE: The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

House Bill 532: Rep. Lynch moved to reconsider actions taken the previous night on H.B. 532. VOTE: The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Amendments will be submitted for action by the committee at a later meeting.

House Bill 233: Rep. Bradley moved that H.B. 233 DO PASS.

Rep. Gerke made a substitute motion to amend the appropriation down to \$240,000 for the biennium (\$120,000 per year). VOTE: The motion carried by a voice vote of 15-1, Rep. Moore voting NO and Rep. Lund absent.

Rep. Bradley moved that H.B. 233 DO PASS AS AMENDED. ROLL CALL VOTE: The motion carried with a vote of 12-4.

House Bill 832: Rep. Moore moved H.B. 832 DO NOT PASS.

Rep. Halvorson made a substitute motion that this bill DO PASS.

Rep. Bradley made another substitute motion that this measure be amended down to \$75,000. Motion withdrawn.

ROLL CALL VOTE on the substitute motion that H.B. 832 DO PASS: The motion carried by a vote of 16-1.

House Bill 85: Rep. Gunderson moved the bill be amended on page 2, section 1, line 4 and on page 2, section 1, line 20 as proposed on the attachment.

Rep. Gunderson briefly explained the effects of the amendments saying that these amendments are needed for equity as there are about 28 million acres of private land compared to 16 million acres of non-taxable grazing land in the state. There was a brief discussion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: The motion failed with a vote of 6-11.

Rep. Moore moved that H.B. 85 DO PASS. ROLL CALL VOTE: The motion carried with a vote of 16-1.

House Bill 525: Rep. Moore moved this bill DO NOT PASS.

Rep. Bradley made a substitute motion that H.B. 525 DO PASS.

Rep. Lynch made another substitute motion to amend the bill to read \$300,000 rather than \$700,000. VOTE: The motion carried with a voice vote of 15-2 (Representatives Estenson and Moore voting NO).

Rep. Moore moved that H.B. 525 receive a recommendation of AS AMENDED DO NOT PASS.

Discussion: Rep. Gunderson felt that it is imperative that the study be made. Rep. Lund said that everything he has heard about this bill says it is referring to the Scobey branch. He indicated that B.N. has put many dollars into the Scobey branch and there are no plans to pull the railroad out of there. Rep. Ellis said that he thought we already had the study; we should not be in a position to encourage the railroad to run without a profit. There was a brief discussion on this issue. Rep. Marks brought the committee's attention to page 10 of the bill, stating that this does more than make a study. Rep. Bradley said that this is a high priority item this session, but it is about 20 years late. "If Montana doesn't get started on this," she added, "we are going to be left out in the cold."

Rep. Gerke made a substitute motion that H.B. 525 DO PASS AS AMENDED. ROLL CALL VOTE: The motion carried with a vote of 10-6.

House Bill 592: Rep. Bradley moved that H.B. 592 DO PASS.

She pointed out that there is an incorrect fiscal note on this as the bill now stands, but Rep. Moore stated that it will still take 5 additional FTEs. Rep. South said that this committee could pass consideration of it; and if it is not put in by the Elected Officials Subcommittee, it would have to be amended. Rep. Lynch, chairman of that subcommittee, explained that the funding recommended by the subcommittee is "strictly status quo."

ROLL CALL VOTE: The motion carried with a vote of 12-5.

House Bill 649: Rep. Moore moved that H.B. 649 DO NOT PASS.

Rep. Marks made a substitute motion that H.B. 649 DO PASS. ROLL CALL VOTE: The motion carried with a vote of 9-7.

House Bill 663: Rep. Estenson moved that this bill DO PASS.

Rep. Moore made a substitute motion that H.B. 663 DO NOT PASS.

Discussion: Rep. Moore stated that we have more health services in the counties than we can even find; there are things scattered all

over this state. Rep. Estenson retorted that she gets dismayed by the priorities set by the committee; we need to take a look at the delivery of home health care, she felt. There are areas where people need to be served in their homes; we do not need to set up separate agencies to do this but it could be contracted with agencies that do that kind of service. Someone has to take the responsibility to care for those who cannot care for themselves, she concluded. In response to a question from Rep. Marks. Rep. Estenson said that there are agencies that provide care in homes and these could be contracted for services.

Consideration of H.B. 663 was passed for the day.

House Bill 689: Rep. Bardanouve explained that the fiscal impact is not known because they don't know how many will use it.

Rep. Marks moved that H.B. 689 DO PASS. ROLL CALL VOTE: The motion carried with a vote of 13-3.

House Bill 701: Rep. Bradley moved that H.B. 701 DO PASS.

Discussion: Rep. Lynch said that we have not done a single thing this session to help people with this issue. We could earmark it, he suggested, and take it from the coal trust and would not need general fund money. There was money for this in S.R.S., Rep. Manuel stated; \$2 million for all the aged programs. But Rep. Estenson said that D.C.A. and S.R.S. receive federal funding for weatherization and winterization projects; the state has to put up some matching funds. Rep. Bardanouve said this is for the low income people also. Rep. Lund suggested amending page 2, line 13. Rep. Bradley explained that the money going to weatherization is only for welfare through S.R.S. now; this would go to homes that would otherwise not get this kind of help. It would help the low income people as well as others, and at the same time it will save the state's fuel. There would be some kind of matching funds required on this money.

Consideration of H.B. 701 was passed for the day.

House Bill 728: Rep. Vincent does have a new definition of a handicapped child, it was stated, but the amendment was not available. The amendment would probably cause an increase in the appropriation needed for the program.

Rep. Moore moved H.B. 728 DO NOT PASS. ROLL CALL VOTE: The motion carried with a vote of 11-5.

House Bill 756: Rep. Kvaalen moved that this bill DO NOT PASS.

Rep. Lund made a substitute motion that the amendments on the attached sheet be incorporated into the bill. VOTE: The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Rep. Moore moved that H.B. 756 DO PASS AS AMENDED. VOTE: The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

House Bill 780: Rep. Aageson moved that H.B. 780 DO NOT PASS.

ROLL CALL VOTE: The motion carried with a vote of 11-5.

House Bill 781: Rep. Kvaalen moved that H.B. 781 DO PASS. ROLL CALL VOTE: The motion carried with a vote of 13-4.

House Bill 808: Rep. Lynch moved this bill DO PASS.

Discussion: Rep. Moore explained that this is the income tax write off of \$1. There will be \$65,000 to \$70,000 in this fund by the time this bill runs out. Rep. Meloy, Chairman of the Rules Committee who sponsored this bill, explained that the original bill was designed to continue the fund only. Then later the Speaker felt there should be something done to make this a public campaign fund. This was put in to start to make it a public campaign fund. Paragraph (3) was not amended, but there will not be a gubernatorial election until after the next session. This will start it now and then the next session can decide how to get it in a public campaign fund. Rep. Bardanouve suggested the bill have a sunset clause. Rep. Marks said that there would be an impact of \$350,000 to \$400,000 if the bill doesn't pass; it will reduce the general fund by that amount. The budget office is figuring on about \$75,000 a year, Les Simpkins reported. Rep. Meloy said that if the committee kills this bill, it would be a good idea to reappropriate the money already in there to the general fund. Rep. Moore pointed out that if the money is ever needed, we could come in with a bill to get it out.

ROLL CALL VOTE: The motion carried with a vote of 10-6.

House Bill 818: Rep. Lynch moved that this bill DO PASS. ROLL CALL VOTE: The motion carried with a vote of 15-1.

House Bill 821: Rep. Halvorson moved that this bill DO PASS. After a very brief discussion, consideration was passed for the day.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Francis Bardanouve, Chairman

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