

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE ON ELECTED OFFICIALS
MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 11, 1977
8:00 a.m.
Rm. 428A
State Capitol Bldg.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lynch with all members present.

The members of the committee were introduced. The subject for this meeting will be the Legislative Consumer Counsel and the Legislative Finance Committee, Office of the Legislative Analyst.

Discussion was opened on the Consumer Council. Representative Joe Quilici, Legislative Consumer Committee, stated he could see no problems with the existing budget, as proposed to the committee. There would be no funds actually taken from the general fund. Senator Regan asked where the 41% increase in personal services would be used? Geoffrey Brazier, Consumer Counsel, replied a full time lawyer was hired and he is salaried at 15 thousand per year. Senator Regan then asked if this was not high salary for a staff attorney? Mr. Brazier replied, 13 thousand is the low pay for an attorney just out of law school, and we don't feel this is to much. She then asked how many were on their staff? Brazier answered, other than himself, one staff attorney, a transportation advisor, and a secretary and office manager. In addition to salary staff members, a utility advisor is retained on a monthly basis; salary, \$1,500, per month.

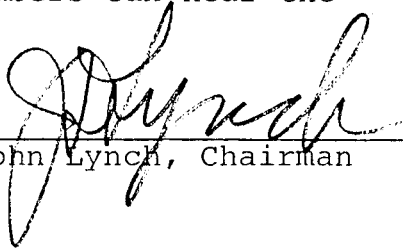
The budget of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst Office was to be explained by John LaFaver, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, and William Gosnell, Associate Analyst. A request of 39% over 1977, budget has been made. Mr. LaFaver explained the structure of the office, which consists of five analysts. A report to the Legislative Finance Committee was made during August, on the staff hours. All analysts are on a salary pay bases and during the 11 month pay period, reported on, they had put in over 1150, overtime hours. Representative Lynch asked what the salaries of the analysts were. LaFaver replied, for a fiscal analyst, with a masters degree and one year of experience, salary is \$13,073, per year. Representative Lynch requested that a itemized list of all employees positions, starting salaries and proposed salaries, for 1978 and 79, be prepared for all the proposed budgets.

Senator Regan moved the Legislative Fiscal Analyst budget be approved as presented. Senator Nelson seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Chairman Lynch announced the next committee meeting would be at 5 p.m., January 12, in room 228.

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With some members of the committee not being able to attend all of the 8 a.m., meetings the committee will be meeting at 8 a.m., and 5 p.m., on some days, so all members can hear the testimony.



John Lynch, Chairman

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