

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON ELECTED OFFICIALS
MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 15, 1977
8:10 a.m.
Room 428A
State Capitol Building

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lynch with all members being present. The subject of the hearing: Montana Crime Control Board.

Mr. Gosnell explained that there is no dollar difference in the budgets. This is a PBS budget and they are, in fact, at a level 80% of last year's budget because of reductions.

Gene Huntington of the Budget Office was present to answer any questions regarding the Priority Budget System.

Michael Lavin, Administrator of the Crime Control Division of the Department of Justice, gave committee members a copy of the 1975 Annual Report on Crime in Montana. He gave a brief overview of the office; stating that the State Board of Crime Control, which is not his office, is a group of 16 members appointed by the Governor representing state and local law enforcement people plus two legislators. This body supervises the Crime Control Division and the 5 regional advisory councils (which are composed of all local people). The Division establishes priorities for law enforcement throughout the state and produces a plan which addresses the needs throughout the state.

State agencies are funded 90% by federal funds and 10% state; local agencies are 90% federally funded, 5% state funding and 5% local. Mr. Lavin felt that with this type of funding, the state is given the opportunity of building a program and seeing how it works through the preparatory stages before they have to assume the funding. This is LEAA funding. These funds, unlike other funding for other programs, have increased in percentage over the years. President Ford, before leaving office, gave them three more years of life, Mr. Lavin told the committee. The commitment the committee could be making would be less than the commitment they presently have. Chairman Lynch said that unlike the LETS and ID Bureaus, this program is able to maintain its own. Mr. Lavin reported that presently they are now able to tell how much funding they will be receiving during the next biennium from LEAA and federal funds. They couldn't be certain of their funding during the Nixon Administration because he kept putting in dollars. In response to a question from Senator Regan, Mr. Lavin responded that they would put in for a budget amendment if other monies became available; but he did not anticipate more funding.

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Mr. Lavin answered a question from Chairman Lynch about the staffing reduction, saying that they had concluded that some of their staff members might be better utilized in other areas. For example, the full-time Indian Planner position in their division was moved into the Community Affairs Department. The positions reduced will not be re-staffed.

Mr. Lavin stated that the \$195,885 for 1978 and the \$205,751 for 1979 under general funds would handle everything they anticipate for the next two years.

Mr. Gosnell asked if the Western States White Collar Crime Task Force is under their division and if they anticipate needing funds for that. They have a "mini-unit" according to Mr. Lavin which receives about \$250,000 in grant money. It is under the jurisdiction of the county attorneys; the division has no authority over them.

Senator Regan asked about the LEAA money being spent previously on equipment. Mr. Lavin answered that there is a conflict between the consumers, the Division and the supervisory board. The Division has requested repeatedly that equipment be at the bottom of the priority list. The consumers, or people on the street who benefit from the program, want equipment, which is a tangible thing for them. The Board of Crime Control, responding to the pressure of the consumers, puts it up high on the list of priorities.

In response to another question from Senator Regan, on the duties and responsibilities of the division, William Wolfe (Deputy Administrator of the Division) answered that the crimes in Montana have dropped considerably recently, and compared it to a 5% national reduction in crime during the period of the first 6 months in 1975 compared to the first 6 months in 1976. The division has actual crime planning programs going on in the three high crimes areas in the state (Missoula, Great Falls, and Billings). Mr. Lavin said they want to get more involved in this type of work, and need direct funding for this kind of thing.

In conclusion, Mr. Lavin stated that the division appreciates the help from the Budget Office and the LFA Office with their pilot program on the PBS. The PBS system has been successful for this division; and they feel it is helpful because it gives people the opportunity and duty to sit down and look carefully at what they are doing.

There being no further questions or comments, the hearing was closed. The committee met for executive action, but Senator Lockrem could not remain at the meeting.

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION: Communications: The division is currently not billing for the Justice Department, which means there is about \$240,000 per year in billings that the division does not handle and that they probably should have control over, Mr. Gosnell stated. Chairman Lynch commented that by funding them, we could find out how much is being paid for services.

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Senator Regan moved to put the money into this realizing that we are not increasing the budget, but giving the authority to get a handle on it all. The funding would be \$265,725 and \$265,755, for 1978 and 1979 respectively. VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

Personnel: Mr. Gosnell said that the mag card should have been included originally. Senator Regan moved to add \$6,000 per year in general funds. VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

Insurance and Legal: The division agrees with the figures to reduce it. They request one FTE for retainer fees. Senator Regan moved that the funding be approved as: \$1,894,240 plus \$16,272 in revolving funds for 1978 and \$2,275,322 plus \$15,772 in revolving funds for 1979. VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

Passenger Tramway: Unless they have the funding, they will lose it. House Bill 389 provides for more adequate funding to cover the cost of the lifts. Chairman Lynch felt that he would like to see the state out of the business completely, but we should either fund it adequately or repeal it. Ed Eaton of the Budget Office said that a budget amendment granted them a revolving fund spending authority for inspections. They do not have this authority and did not request this authority from the legislature, even though the Budget Office suggested when the amendment went through. Chairman Lynch suggested that the committee recommend that the next legislature get the state out of the business.

Senator Regan moved that, contingent upon the passage of H.B. 389, \$12,600 per year be added to the budget. VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

Records Management: See notes on the Dept. of Administration's Decision Package for this budget. There was a brief discussion regarding the philosophical differences of general funding vs. revolving funding. The division is requesting an additional \$25,600 for 1978 for shelving. Mr. Eaton stated that it wasn't funded by the Executive recommendation because they simply could not come up with enough money for everything.

Senator Regan moved that the committee accept the LFA approach with the \$25,600. VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

Transportation of Prisoners: The LFA recommendation is for \$50,000 for 1978 and \$52,500 for 1979; the department requests an additional \$30,000 each year and \$30,000 for a supplemental for 1977. Mr. Eaton explained that they had a 29% increase in the last quarter and there are bills that must, by law, be paid.

Senator Nelson moved that the committee accept the \$80,000 for 1978, \$82,500 for 1979, plus the \$30,000 supplemental. VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

State Treasurer: The division requests one FTE be reinserted into the budget for a accountant/clerical position. Mr. Eaton said this position is necessary if they are to accomplish their job.

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Senator Regan moved that the Committee put in the figures for the one (1) FTE (accountant/clerical) at a grade 9, contingent upon the passage of Senate Bill 286 and approve the \$6,000 supplemental request. VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

Board of Examiners: See the comments on the attached "Decision Package" information sheet. There was a brief discussion.

Senator Regan moved that the Committee reassign the one (1) clerical FTE to the Director's Office and one (1) FTE to the Architecture and Engineering Division and the supporting funds for each to go with them, and eliminate the appropriation for this program. VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

PERS: The division requests the addition of two (2) FTES which the LFA recommendation did not include because of the consolidation proposal.

Representative Gunderson moved that the committee accept the PERS budget. VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

Teachers: Representative Gunderson moved that the committee accept the teachers' budget. VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

State Tax Appeals Board: There is a bill that has been introduced to merge the SRS and the Tax Appeals Boards and make only the director the one full-time member and all others would be on a 1/2 time membership status, Mr. Eaton explained. Helen Peterson has put in an amendment for \$60,000 which the Budget Office cut to \$9,000 for classified people. They would work as many or as few hours as necessary. They might qualify for supplemental budgets. Chairman Lynch was against an increase to five people; and also he was against any out-of-state travel because they are tax appeals people and not tax administrators. Mr. Eaton pointed out that this is a statutory board, not a constitutional board, and must be an annual board with their salaries paid.

Chairman Lynch suggested that the out-of-state travel funding be cut out of the budget. There were no objections from committee members.

Mr. Gosnell, in response to a question from Representative Gunderson, said that the LFA budget cut \$40,000 in 1978 and \$60,000 in 1979 from the 1976 actual workload. There was a discussion about the salaries with members agreeing that \$18,500 is plenty salary for 6 months of work; these positions are not classified.

Senator Regan moved that the members' salary be set at \$18,500, and the chairman's salary be set at \$19,000; all out-of-state travel cut; and no increases will be granted. VOTE: The vote was four (4) aye votes and one (1) no vote (Representative Gunderson); the motion passed.

Payroll: Senator Regan moved to put the payroll in the Dept. of Administration contingent upon the passage of S.B. 368. If S.B. 368 passes, it will be moved back into the Auditor's Office. VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

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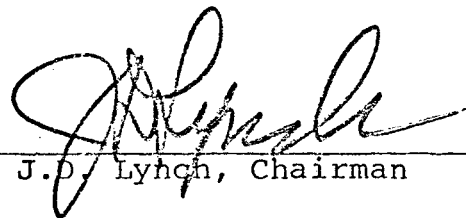
Merit System Council: The Council requests \$20,000 in supplemental; Mr. Gosnell's analysis shows that \$9,000 would be sufficient. They are requesting funding for travel and training conferences for the staff; if they don't spend it it will be reverted. This is earmarked money. A bill by Representative Brand will bring the merit system under the personnel division and make some changes in responsibilities. Mr. Eaton, in response to a comment by Chairman Lynch, explained that it will become a grievance board, that it will be separate, and that it will be better to have it under Personnel.

Senator Regan moved that the committee give them the \$9,000. Discussion: Chairman Lynch stated that he opposed it and felt it should be \$15,000 and the money not spent would be reverted back. VOTE: The motion carried with four (4) aye votes and one (1) no vote (Rep. Lynch).

CRIME CONTROL BOARD: This division has cut themselves by 11% with the PBS.

Senator Nelson moved to approve the budget as it is under both the LFA and Executive budget recommendations (both are identical amount). VOTE: The motion with four (4) aye votes; Senator Regan abstaining.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.



J.D. Lynch, Chairman

jlm

Addition:

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION: Building Standards: The committee recommends that this division be funded in accord with the LFA recommendation, contingent upon the passage of Senate Bill 401. JDL/jlm