

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

### PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

February 12, 1977

The fifteenth meeting of the Public Health, Welfare and Safety Committee was called to order in Room 405 of the State Capitol Building on Saturday, February 12, 1977, at approximately 11:00 A.M.

ROLL CALL: All members were present, excepting Senator Norman.

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL 244: Chairman Stephens turned the meeting over to Senator Flynn, sponsor of the bill. The Senator introduced this bill by request of the Humane Society. However, due to the apparent lack of interest or follow-up by that group, plus no proponents present at the hearing, the Senator was perplexed as to its intent. The change in the present law that the proposed legislation makes is one of allowing the judge to place an abused animal in custody. Senator Flynn said he himself questioned this, on the basis of cost to maintain an animal over any period of time.

ACTION ON SENATE BILL 244: With little discussion, the Chairman, considering that no one appeared in support of the bill plus the fact that the bill had been posted and publicized, called for a motion. Motion was made by Senator Roberts that Senate Bill 244 DO NOT PASS - motion carried, 4 to 3, with one Senator absent.

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL 399: In the absence of the bill's sponsor, Senator Boylan, Chairman Stephens introduced the bill and also Lauren France, who came before the Committee representing Mr. Al Daughtery and the Montana Chiropractic Association. Ms. France introduced Dr. Robert Norrbohm, one of two persons testifying in support of the bill.

Dr. Robert Norrbohm, President of the Montana Chiropractic Association, addressed the Committee concerning the education chiropractic students are now receiving (see Exhibit "A").

Dr. William Dallas, Immediate Past President, American Chiropractic Association, testified last in support of the bill. Dr. Dallas gave the Committee background information on the profession and more information regarding his profession's educational requirements, plus the fact that chiropractic is included in Medicare, Medicaid, F.E.C.A., Internal Revenue Code, Vocational Rehabilitation, Federal Employees Health Benefit Programs and is authorized to approve federal employee disability leaves. (See Exhibit "B".)

February 12, 1977

Jerome T. Loendorf, representing the Montana Medical Association, was the single testifying opponent to the bill. Mr. Loendorf presented the Committee with written testimony taken from the 1975 "Consumers Reports" magazine (see Exhibit "C") which he then read from, pointing out past history of the profession, past educational requirements, bad publicity received in years past, false claims by some practitioners, pointing out the past problems of the profession as a whole.

Chairman Stephens then asked for questions from the Committee. Through questions, it was established that:

- 1) Montana has 120 licensed chiropractic doctors.
- 2) Montana state law demands 2 years pre-professional, 4 years chiropractic school (4,000 hours) and 2 years internship.
- 3) The Chiropractic Association feels most of the report presented by Mr. Loendorf was slanted, isolated incidents and probably done by the American Medical Association.
- 4) Under the proposed legislation, chiropractors would have the authority to use venepuncture.
- 5) Professors in chiropractic colleges meet the same requirements, educational and otherwise, as any other college. However, no M.D.s can address chiropractic groups so colleges do not have practicing M.D.s lecturing.
- 6) The malpractice insurance for chiropractic doctors runs substantially less than for M.D.s.
- 7) Some M.D.s will work with chiropractic doctors today in regard to a specific patient - but not openly.
- 8) Over 1,000 school hours is devoted to blood-related study in their college curriculum.
- 9) The AMA objects to the general expanse of the definition in the bill.
- 10) Chiropractors are licensed by their own Board.
- 11) Chiropractors are using labs outside of this state.
- 12) Surgery, for one, and injections for another, are two things closed to chiropractors, even with this expanded definition.
- 13) The main reason chiropractors want the legal right to venepuncture is for diagnostic purposes only - for referral rather than chiropractors treatments.
- 14) Twelve states have this legal right now by statute; in 18-20 states chiropractors do as is now being done in Montana. About 12 states have similar type language as the Committee is now considering in this bill.

The hearing was concluded on Senate Bill 399, with NO ACTION taken this date.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Stephens adjourned the meeting at 12:10 P.M.

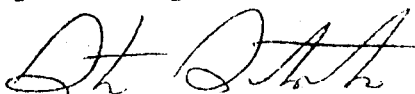
  
STAN STEPHENS, Chairman

EXHIBIT "A"

TO THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Dear Gentlemen:

I'm Dr Robert Norrbohm, President of the Montana Chiropractic Association. I have practiced my profession for the past nineteen years in Malta, and I am very proud to appear before your committee today so that my profession might be afforded the opportunity of assisting you in reaching a conclusion as to the need for a clarification of what chiropractic is, and should be, insofar as state law can define it.

The doctors of chiropractic practicing in the state of Montana at the present time are providing services to patients at the rate of well over 600,000 office and house calls per year, and have always felt that the patients receiving those services could often be best served by a more total usage of the education we have received at our colleges. The patient must certainly retain the right of confidence that he surely belongs under the care of the doctor of chiropractic he has chosen, rather than belonging in the care of one of the other health care providing disciplines.

As technological advances have progressed I am very happy to observe the fact that the students of our colleges are benefitting by those advances and are progressively becoming more and more sophisticated in regard to education.

On a personal knowledge basis, I can report that the students of our colleges are finding it difficult to evaluate the existing Montana law when they search for their eventual geographic area of practice, and they well realize that it is becoming increasingly difficult to find where they could best fit into a more utopian health care providing system that could better serve the public interest in concordance with all other health care providing systems.

Our association has seen fit to impose on Dr. William Dallas, who practices chiropractic in Tacoma, Washington to appear as an expert witness before this committee.

Dr. Dallas is the immediate Past President of the American Chiropractic Association and remains well versed on the educational status and requirements of our colleges, and we feel certain that he has pertinent information regarding our request for a deeper clarification of the existing law defining our profession.

With your permission I would like to present Dr. William Dallas.

EXHIBIT "B"

TO THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of this committee. My name is William Dallas and I wish to thank you for this opportunity to speak in behalf of Senate Bill 399.

The issues I wish to address are those of chiropractic education and the chiropractic profession in relation to National Health Care Delivery programs.

During the past twenty years chiropractic education has moved from a position of marginal recognition to full acceptance of the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Chiropractic Education which is sponsored by the American Chiropractic Association. In 1974 this Commission was given a one year approval by the U.S. Office of Education. In 1975 the approval was continued for three additional years with commendation for excellence. Presently four of our colleges are fully accredited and four are Recognized Candidates for Accreditation. The remaining six have five who have filed letters of intent to seek accreditation with one opposing the program. All of those in the pipeline subscribe to the standards of the Accreditation Program of the Council on Chiropractic Education.

Among the standards is the following statement of recommended curriculum.

" The purpose of the curriculum is to provide the means for giving the student a thorough understanding of the structure and function of the human organism in health and disease. A well-balanced presentation should give the student an understanding of the essential features of the life processes: digestion, excretion, physical and mental growth, nutrition, metabolism, energy, nervous control, the significance of developmental defects, behavior, and other elements which are fundamental of the understanding of pathological conditions. An understanding of structure and function should make it possible for students to identify deviations from the normal and should provide the essential facts required for the diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment of disease.

OFFERINGS

The offerings should include the following disciplines:  
human anatomy; biochemistry; physiology; microbiology; pathology;

Feb. 12-1977

T E S T I F Y I N G

SUPPORT,  
OPPOSE OR  
AMEND?

NAME : \_\_\_\_\_

**REPRESENTING:**

ON BILL #

(Please leave any prepared statement with Secretary)

[illegible]

Feb 12 - 1977

DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
Public Health

BILL NO. 399

## VISITOR'S REGISTER

NAME		REPRESENTING	Check One	
			Support	Oppose
Dr. Robert M. Norbotten	Mont. Chiropractic Assn	✓		
William H. Dallas D.C.	Montana Chiro Assn	✓		
<del>Dr. J. J. C. Reis</del>	<del>Montana Chiro Assn</del>	<del>✓</del>		
Robert H. Dahl D.C.	" " "	✓		
McNagney D.C.	Montana Chiro. Assoc.	✓		
Philip H. Blum D.C.	Board of Chiropractic Examiners	✓		
W. J. Kaye D.C.	Board of Chiropractic Examiners	✓		
J. E. Snyder M.D.	Self -			✓
Robert H. Blum D.C.	Self			✓
Wm. T. Landolf	Mont. Medical Assn			✓
John P. Porton	Self			✓
W. H. Hester D.C.	Montana Chiropractic Assn	✓		

# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

FEBRUARY 12

19 77

MR. PRESIDENT

We, your committee on PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY

having had under consideration SENATE Bill No. 244

Respectfully report as follows: That SENATE Bill No. 244,  
introduced bill,

DO NOT PASS

~~DO NOT PASS~~

ROLL CALL

VOTE

SENATE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY

45th LEGISLATIVE SESSION - 1977.

Date Feb. 13 Bill No. 244 Time 11:15

NAME S:	YES	NO
LEE, Robert		✓ LEE
RASMUSSEN, Tom		✓ RASMUSSEN
OLSON, Stuart	1	OLSON
HIMSL, Matt	2	HIMSL
WATT, Robert		3 WATT
ROBERTS, Joe	3	ROBERTS
NORMAN, Bill - V. Chm.		NORMAN
STEPHENS, Stan - Chairman	4	STEPHENS

Joyce (Kelly) Allen  
Secretary

STAN STEPHENS  
Chairman

Motion: Motion by Senator Roberts = No Not Pass

P 6

(include enough information on motion—put with yellow copy of committee report.)



R O L L C A L L

PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

45th LEGISLATIVE SESSION - 1977

DATE: Feb. 12-1977

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