

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
SENATE STATE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 16, 1977

The meeting was called to order by Senator Towe, Chairman, at 11:00 a.m. in Room 410 of the Capitol Building. Committee members present were Senators Towe, Story, Brown, Rasmussen, Blaylock, Jergeson, Devine, and Roskie.

The following bills were discussed: SB 395
SB 286
SB 314
SJR 10
SJR 12
SB 403

SENATE BILL 395

Senator Mehrens, District 45, sponsor of the bill, explained the purpose of the bill is to reimburse patrolmen for expenses incurred in answering a subpoena. He stated that at present they have to use their own time or vacation time to appear and this shouldn't happen.

PROPOSAL

Captain Tooley, Montana Highway Patrol, stated his support of the bill.

Tom Schneider, Montana Public Employees Association, urged support of the bill on behalf of the Highway Patrolmen.

There being no further proponents or opponents to the bill, the hearing was closed.

Senator Devine moved to amend the bill on page 1, line 17 and a corresponding amendment in the title of the bill (see amendments on the attached committee report). THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Senator Brown moved Senate Bill 395 Do Pass As Amended. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE BILL 286

Senator Thiessen, District 27, sponsor of the bill, stated the purpose of the bill is to strike the office of state treasurer from the codes as it has been eliminated due to the new constitution and reorganization.

PROPOSAL

Jack Crosser, Director of the Department of Administration, stated he supported the bill.

Jo Ann Woodgerd, Secretary of State's Office, stated some clean-up amendments should be made either in committee or through the recodification process.

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There being no further proponents or opponents, the hearing was closed.

SENATE BILL 314

Senator Hager, District 30, sponsor of the bill, stated the purpose of the bill is to change the method of filling vacancies on the Environmental Quality Council. This would revert to the original concept and he felt this was the best way to handle the situation.

There being no proponents or opponents, the hearing was closed.

Senator Story moved Senate Bill 314 Do Pass. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 10

Senator Regan, District 31, sponsor of the resolution, stated the purpose of the resolution is to call on Congress to abolish the electoral college and provide for the direct election of the President. She stated she hoped to get other states to pass the same resolution and eventually accomplish the intent of the bill. She noted the electoral college is obsolete and not functional for today. The current system disenfranchises the voter at present and would probably be declared unconstitutional if challenged. A constitutional crisis has very nearly occurred in some elections and probably will occur before long.

The United States did not have direct election of Senators before 1912 and Montana played a substantial part in changing that.

The two party system is weakened by the electoral college concept when a large majority in one area is one party or the other. The direct vote concept would change and strengthen the two party concept and each vote would count.

PROPOSERS

Joy Bruck, League of Women Voters, presented her written statement to the committee (attached #1).

There being no further proponents and no opponents, the hearing was closed.

Senator Jergeson moved to amend page 1, lines 23 through line 3 on page 2 by striking those lines and inserting "Whereas the electoral college system is in violation of the one man-one vote system; and". THE MOTION CARRIED WITH SENATORS ROSKIE AND BROWN VOTING NO AND SENATOR DEVINE ABSENT.

Senator Jergeson moved SJR 10 Be Adopted As Amended. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH SENATOR BROWN, STORY AND ROSKING VOTING NO AND SENATOR DEVINE PRESENT AND VOTING YES.

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 12

Senator Rasmussen, District 16, sponsor of the resolution, stated the purpose of the resolution is to compile land use data yearly. He stated his proposed amendments would lower the cost to approximately \$30,000.

PROPONENTS

Richard Burke, Acting Director of the Environmental Quality Council, stated this would help in determining what is on hand at present and where duplication exists.

There being no further proponents and no opponents, the hearing was closed.

Senator Story expressed a concern over possible misuse of the information.

Senator Towe asked who would compile the report and Mr. Burke stated it didn't make any difference but should be written into the bill.

Senator Roskie asked if the bill was submitted at the direct request of the E.Q.C. Senator Rasmussen answered yes.

SENATE BILL 403

Senator Turnage, District 13, sponsor of the bill, stated the purpose of the bill clarify and clean up the petition and initiative process language in the codes.

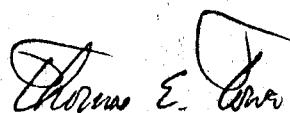
PROPONENTS

Jo Ann Woodgerd, Secretary of State's Office, stated the bill was introduced at the request of that office and is more substantive than a recodification bill. She reviewed the changes proposed by the bill for the committee.

Margaret Davis, League of Women Voters, stated her support of the bill.

There being no further proponents and no opponents, the hearing was closed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to reconvene upon adjournment of the Senate, February 16.



Thomas E. Towe, Chairman

SENATE ~~and~~ ~~Administrative~~ COMMITTEE

Bull.

VISITORS' REGISTER

DATE

NAME	REPRESENTING	BILL #	(check one) SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Steve Palmer	EQC	SJR 12 SB 314	✓	
Dale Parker	EQC	SB 12	✓	
Ann Woodard	See aff state	SB 286	—	
J. Carol Scott	See aff state	SB 403	✓	
		SB 286	—	
		SB 403	—	
Helen Vaughan Mackenzie	Citizens	SJR 10		
Jay Breck	League of Women Voters	SB 403	—	
Grace Williams	League of Women Voters	SJR 10	✓	
Margaret Davis	League of Women Voters	SB 403	✓	
Sera Spanlding	League of Women Voters	SJR 10	✓	
Andy McKenna	Senator	SB 395	✓	
Jack Crossen	Dept of Admin	SB 286	✓	
P. B. Tooley	MHP	SB 395	—	
Tom Hugo	Senator - sponsor	SB 314	—	
Veron M. Van Tuyl	Tenneco	SB 314 SJR 12	following	
W. J. Clark	Self	SB 286	—	
Bill Quicoff	intern	—	✓	

ROLL CALL

COMMITTEE

45th LEGISLATIVE SESSION - - 1977

Date 2/16/77

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

February 16.....

19 77.....

MR. President.....

We, your committee on State Administration.....

having had under consideration Senate..... Bill No. 395.....

Respectfully report as follows: That Senate..... Bill No. 395..... introduced bill, be amended as follows:

1. Amend title, line 8.

Following: "PERSON"

Strike: "ISSUING"

Insert: "OR ORGANIZATION REQUESTING THE ISSUANCE OF"

2. Amend page 1, section 1, line 17.

Following: "person"

Strike: "issuing"

Insert: "or organization requesting the issuance of"

MDORASSK AND AS SO AMENDED, DO PASS

P.Q.

Chairman.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

February 16

19 77

MR. President

We, your committee on State Administration

having had under consideration Senate Bill No. 314

Respectfully report as follows: That Senate Bill No. 314

DO PASS

Ja

.....Chairman.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MONTANA

1100 AVENUE B, N.W., GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59404

SJR 10 Direct Election of the President

The League of Women Voters has supported the direct election of the President for about seven years. The direct popular vote method is essential to representative government, and with the low public confidence in government, we believe the one person, one vote method may help in restoring citizen's faith in government. We also believe that direct popular elections could boost voter participation "because each person's vote would have the same weight as every other person's vote." With the present system, the voters of larger states have advantages over voters in medium and smaller states.

Therefore, we urge your support of SJR 10.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

February 16, 1977

MR. President.....

We, your committee on **State Administration**.....

having had under consideration ...**Senate Joint Resolution**..... Bill No. 10.....

Respectfully report as follows: That **Senate Joint Resolution**..... Bill No. 10..... introduced bill, be amended as follows:

1. Amend page 1, lines 23 through line 3 on page 2.

Following: Line 22

Strike: lines 23 through line 3 on page 2 in their entiratly

Insert: "WHEREAS, the electoral college system is in violation of the one man - one vote system; and".

DOXPAGE AND AS SO AMENDED, BE ADOPTED OA

NAME: William Woodard DATE: 2-16-77

ADDRESS: Sea of States Office - Room 202 Capitol

PHONE: 449-2034

REPRESENTING WHOM? Sec. of State

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: SB 403

DO YOU: SUPPORT? _____ AMEND? _____ OPPOSE? _____

COMMENTS: _____