

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
NATURAL RESOURCES
MONTANA STATE SENATE

February 22, 1977

The twentieth meeting of the Natural Resources Committee was called to order by Senator George Roskie, Vice-Chairman, at 9:30 a. m. on the above date in Room 405 of the State Capitol Building.

ROLL CALL: Upon roll call all members were present except Senators Flynn and Galt. Senator Smith was excused.

Mr. Larry Weinberg, Staff Attorney of the Legislative Council, was also present.

CONSIDERATION OF HB 149: An Act to provide for distribution of fees, fines, penalties, and other moneys collected under the Hard-Rock Mining Act and providing an immediate effective date.

Mr. Joe Quilici, representing District 84 in Butte, and author of House Bill 149, stated that by the fiscal note on this bill it doesn't involve an awful lot of money. The Department of Lands would like the Legislature to give the direction of how to utilize these funds.

Mr. Leo Berry, representing the Department of State Lands, stated that over the last several years the inspectors have come in and said they have found several old mines which are in unsafe condition and someone might get hurt in them. The Bill proposed would place such funds, and all those funds to be subsequently collected, in a Hard Rock Mining and Reclamation Fund. The monies would be used for research and to reclaim areas affected by Hard Rock mining operations, prior to enactment of the Act.

Senator Roskie stated, research was apparently added - was it contemplated that a small amount of money would be for research on revegetation and rehabilitation of water.

Mr. Berry said, I think it could be divided equally.

Senator Roskie said, I think we are talking about studies in this.

Mr. Berry replied, we very well could be. He added, that every fund would continue to stay in the fund until the Legislature appropriates the money to us.

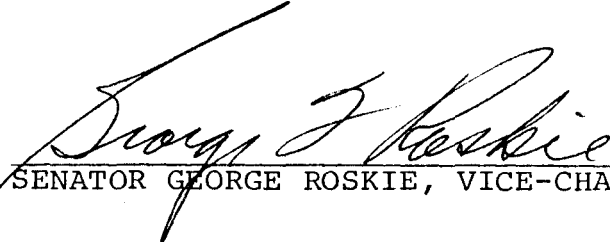
Senator Devine asked, doesn't the School of Mines do any of these studies.

Mr. Berry replied, not to my knowledge.

After brief discussion, Senator Roskie closed the hearing on HB 149.

DISPOSITION OF HB 149: Motion was made by Senator Manley and seconded by Senator Dover that HB 149 BE CONCURRED IN. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a. m.



SENATOR GEORGE ROSKIE, VICE-CHAIRMAN

2.

Date 2-22-77

[illegible]

SENATE Natural Resources COMMITTEE

BILL S. 1147

VISITORS' REGISTER

DATE 2/15/77

Please note bill no.
(check one)
SUPPORT OPPOS

NAME

REPRESENTING

BILL #

SUPPORT

OPPOS

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY

NAME:

Lee Dwyer

DATE:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

REPRESENTING WHOM?

State funds

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL:

DO YOU:

SUPPORT?

X

AMEND?

OPPOSE?

COMMENTS:

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

February 22

1977

MR. PRESIDENT

We, your committee on NATURAL RESOURCES

having had under consideration HOUSE Bill No. 149

Respectfully report as follows: That HOUSE Bill No. 149,

BE CONCURRED IN

~~DO/PASS~~

P.O.

(Attachment #1.)

SUMMARY BILL FOR FINES, FEES AND PENALTIES

The Hard Rock Act was amended by the 1974 Legislature to place enforcement of the Act in the Attorney General's office. The Act calls for the collection of fines, fees and penalties, like the Strip and Underground Mine Reclamation Act, but unlike that Act, it does not state the account into which such monies are to be placed. The department currently has \$16,200 in an uncleared collection account pending legislative resolution of the matter. The Bill proposed would place such funds, and all those funds to be subsequently collected, in a Hard Rock Mining and Reclamation Fund. The monies would be used for research and to reclaim areas affected by Hard Rock mining operations, prior to enactment of the Act. The fund will be identical to one which currently exists in the Strip and Underground Mine Reclamation Act. It will only be available to the department by appropriation by the legislature.

Through its field inspections, the department has become aware of several potentially dangerous situations. There are many old mine dumps which have been unstable through the weathering process over the years and several unsafe mine shafts; these types of situations could be corrected by utilizing the proposed fund.

If past trends hold true, it is anticipated that approximately five to ten thousand dollars per year will be placed in such a fund.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
NATURAL RESOURCES
MONTANA STATE SENATE

February 23, 1977

The twenty-first meeting of the Natural Resources Committee was called to order by Senator Elmer Flynn, Chairman, at 7:30 p. m. on the above date in Room 331 of the State Capitol Building.

ROLL CALL: Upon roll call all members were present except Senator Smith.

CONSIDERATION OF SJR 41: A Joint Resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Montana urging Congress and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to recognize the importance of livestock in the Charles M. Russell Game Range.

Senator Mark Etchart, representing District 2 and Sponsor of the Bill, explained that the Resolution was to be sent to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, recognizing the importance of livestock in the Charles M. Russell Game Range.

DISPOSITION OF SJR 41: Motion was made by Senator Galt and seconded by Senator Dover that SJR 41 DO PASS. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p. m.



SENATOR ELMER FLYNN, CHAIRMAN

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

February 24

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MR. President

We, your committee on Natural Resources

having had under consideration Senate Joint Resolution ~~SEN~~ No. 41

Respectfully report as follows: That Senate Joint Resolution ~~SEN~~ No. 41

DO PASS