

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE SENATE

March 4, 1977

The meeting of the Local Government Committee was called to order by Chairman McCallum on March 4 at 9:37 A.M. in Room 410 of the State Capitol Building.

ROLL CALL: All members were present with the exception of Senator Thomas and Senator Story.

The following visitors were present: Jim Campbell, City of Helena; Les Nilson, Montana State Firemen Association; Ernest Post, Montana State AFL-CIO; Gene Donaldson; Glen Drake, League of Cities and Towns; Arlene Loble, City of Helena; Betty Boettger; Sam Gesko, City of Bozeman; Ed Johnston, Montana State Firemen; Al Sampson, Montana State Firemen; Dave Fisher, Montana Volunteer Firemen's Association; Henry E. Lohr, Montana State Volunteer Firemen's Association; Art Korn, Montana State Volunteer Firemen's Association.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL 638: Representative Kimble, Sponsor of House Bill 638, stated the bill would not increase wages but would guarantee salaries already set up. It would not raise the minimum wage or change it in any way. Al Sampson, Montana State Firemen's Association; Ray Blehm, Montana State Firemen's Association; Ernest Post, AFL-CIO; Dave Fisher, Montana Volunteer Firemen's Association; and Art Korn, Montana State Volunteer Firemen's Association, testified in support of House Bill 638.

Opponents. Glen Drake, League of Cities and Towns, opposed House Bill 638 stating the bill is contrary to self-government powers. Arlene Loble, City of Helena, opposed House Bill 638 stating self-government should allow local boards to set minimum wages and fringe benefits. Betty Boettger opposed House Bill 638 (attached). Sam Gesko, City of Bozeman; Jim Campbell, City of Helena; and Gene Donaldson were opposed to House Bill 638.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL 459: Representative Hurwitz, District 45, Sponsor of House Bill 459, stated the bill has to do with pensions for firemen of small incorporated cities. The bill applies only to small volunteer fire departments in small communities. The bill attempts to give incentive to volunteer firemen who receive training. Art Korn, Henry Lohr, Dave Fisher, Al Sampson, and Glen Drake support House Bill 459.

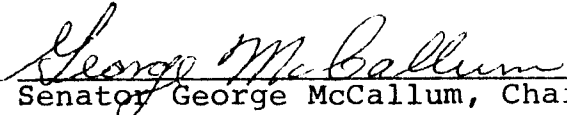
House Bill 459. Senator Peterson moved House Bill 459

be given a "Be Concurred In" recommendation. Senator Dunkle seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

House Bill 638. Senator Dunkle moved House Bill 638 be given a "Be Concurred In" recommendation. Senator Peterson seconded the motion. Senator Thiessen made a substitute motion that House Bill 638 be given a "Be Not Concurred In" recommendation. Senator Lockrem seconded the motion. The Chairman called for a roll call vote. House Bill 638 went out of committee without recommendation.

House Bill 720. Senator Lockrem moved House Bill 720 be given a "Be Not Concurred In" recommendation. Senator Thiessen seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at 10:26. .



Senator George McCallum, Chairman

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ROLL CALL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

45th LEGISLATIVE SESSION - - 1977

Date 3-4-77

[illegible]

NAME:

Ray Blehm

DATE:

March 4, 1977

ADDRESS:

623 Ave B Billings MT

PHONE:

252-7051 or 443-4344

REPRESENTING WHOM?

Montana State Firemen's Assoc

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL:

H.B. 638

DO YOU:

SUPPORT?

X

AMEND?

OPPOSE?

COMMENTS:

This Bill will keep in
force the present minimum
wage law for firemen and
make it apply to all
1st and 2nd class cities
just as it does now.

NAME: Blair Drake DATE: 3/4/77

ADDRESS: Bellevue

PHONE: 442-0230

REPRESENTING WHOM? League Cities & Towns

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: NB638

DO YOU: SUPPORT? AMEND? OPPOSE? L

COMMENTS: The League of Cities & Towns
is opposed to NB638 for the
basic reason that it is
contrary to the position of local
control by city government that
have adopted self government
process.

Helena

M E M O R A N D U M

March 1, 1977

TO: Senate Committee on Local Government

FROM: Helena City Commission

RE: HB638

HB 638 is a bill that would transfer the minimum wage Statutes relating to firemen in first and second class cities from the Local Government Section of the Statutes to the section dealing with the Labor Laws. A copy of that Statute 11-2932 is attached to this memorandum.

The Firemen's Association has tried to get an amendment into HB 122 that would provide that the State Legislature rather than the first and second class cities would establish the minimum wage rate for firemen. The House Committee on Local Government accepted an amendment that would continue to give the State Legislature this authority in all cities that haven't adopted local self-governmental powers. They rejected the amendment that would do the same for the fourteen cities and four counties that elected to place this authority in the hands of their local legislative body.

HB 638 by transferring this section to the Labor Laws would again take this power away from the local governing bodies and place it in the hands of the legislators. It is an attempt to go through the "back door to do what could not be accomplished through the front door."

This bill tries to take away from local governmental bodies the authority that their voters gave them in the recent elections on self-governmental powers. In Helena, one of the reasons cited to approve

COMMENTS: _____

My name is Betty Boettger and I am a resident of East Helena. I am an interested citizen and a voter but my interest goes beyond that.

I have been studying local government for some 4 1/2 years now. First as a member of the Helena League of Women Voters, then as the appointed representative of East Helena on our Interlocal Co-operation Commission, then as an elected member of the Lewis & Clark County Study Commission and most recently as a private citizen working within the political process on the local level. This has taken much time, study & effort.

Because of my present active involvement directly with local government I have not been much involved with what has been happening here in the legislature.

However I have kept informed on major events and I have been both appalled and outraged to see the years of hard work on the part of many people seemingly about to go down the drain. Why am I so outraged about such a seemingly small bill? Let's take a good look at it.

What would HB 638 do?

It would take away one of the rights of Self-Government Powers units of local government.

The Self-Government Powers bill was carefully worked out - if not with "blood, sweat & tears," then at least with "sweat & tears" and I can testify to that.

What "right" would this bill take away from Self-Governing Units?

The right to decide on salaries for some of its employees. Why would this right be taken away? Because the new powers have been tried & have failed? No! This bill would not allow for that trial even though the people
D... .. noted to try it.

COMMENTS:

NAME:

Fare Fisher

DATE:

3/4/77

ADDRESS:

1908 S. Washington St. Butte, Mont

PHONE:

292-8858

REPRESENTING WHOM?

Montana Fair Chicks Ass.
Montana Vol. Fireman's Ass

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL:

H.B-459-

DO YOU:

SUPPORT?

☒

AMEND?

☐

OPPOSE?

☐

COMMENTS:

al Sampson

POINTS FOR HOUSE BILL 638

Why should the Fire Fighters minimum wage law be moved from where it is now to the labor section of the Montana Codes?

1. Minimum Wage Laws are labor laws. If there is any other type of law such as a law that only part of the cities have to pay attention to, then I would like to know where it is normally placed? Under miscellaneous?

2. The cost of this legislation has been met without difficulty and was done during the last two years.

Mill Levy or Taxes Per \$1000 Taxable
Valuation for Montana Cities & Towns

City or Town

<u>Population Above 20,000</u>	1975-76	1976-77	\$+or-
Billings	\$ 74.00	\$ 71.25	\$ -2.75
Butte	\$ 73.94	\$ 73.20	\$ - .74
Gt. Falls	\$ 74.65	\$ 73.78	\$ - .87
Helena	\$ 65.31	\$ 64.96	\$ - .35
Missoula	<u>\$ 75.83</u>	<u>\$ 80.12</u>	<u>\$ +4.29</u>
Average	\$ 72.75	\$ 72.66	\$ - .09

<u>Population 10,000 to 20,000</u>	1975-76	1976-77	+or -\$
Bozeman	\$ 76.70	\$ 76.50	\$ -.20
Havre	\$ 82.63	\$ 81.44	\$ -1.19
Kalispell	<u>\$ 68.00</u>	<u>\$ 71.50</u>	<u>\$ +3.50</u>
Average	\$ 75.78	\$ 76.48	\$ + .70

SENATE COMMITTEE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Date _____ House Bill No. 638 Time _____

NAME	YES	NO
George McCallum, Chairman		
Robert Watt, Vice Chairman	✓	✓
Pete Story		
Frank Dunkle		✓
Lloyd Lockrem	✓	
Bob Peterson		✓
Cornie Thiessen	✓	
Bill Thomas		

Mary Miller
Secretary

George McCallum
Chairman

Motion: Be NOT Concurred In

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

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 4

19 77

MR. **President**

We, your committee on **Local Government**

having had under consideration **House** Bill No. **638**

Respectfully report as follows: That **House** Bill No. **638**

**REPEALS
WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 4

19 77

MR. President

We, your committee on Local Government

having had under consideration House Bill No. 720

Respectfully report as follows: That House Bill No. 720

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BE NOT CONCURRED IN

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 4 1977

MR. President

We, your committee on Local Government

having had under consideration House Bill No. 459

Respectfully report as follows: That House Bill No. 459

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BE CONCURRED IN

