

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
SENATE STATE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE  
MARCH 9, 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, Roskie, Jergeson, Blaylock and Devine.

The following bills were discussed:   HB 328  
  HB 359  
  HB 414  
  HJR 14  
  HB 376  
  Appointments

HOUSE BILL 328

Representative Menahan, District 90, sponsor of the bill, stated the purpose of the bill is to change the name of the Board of Administration to the Public Employees Retirement Board.

Larry Nachtsheim, Public Employees Retirement System, told the committee this was just an administrative bill and would be no cost to the state.

There were no proponents and no opponents to the bill and the hearing was closed.

Senator Story moved House Bill 328 Be Concurred In.   THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

HOUSE BILL 359

Representative J. D. Lynch, sponsor of the bill, stated the bill was introduced at the request of the Governor.

Bob Lohn, Governor's Office, explained the bill simply repeals the section of the codes which put the Federal-State Coordinator into the Governor's Office which was a mistake in executive reorganization.

There were no proponents or opponents to the bill and the hearing was closed.

Senator Blaylock moved House Bill 359 Be Concurred In.   THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

HOUSE BILL 414

Representative J. D. Lynch, sponsor of the bill, stated the bill was introduced at the request of the Governor. It simply clears up the language and any confusion which might have resulted between the Department of Administration and the State Budget Director.

Bob Lohn, Governor's Office, stated the bill strikes substitutions of language and makes consistent throughout the codes that the budget director prepares fiscal notes.

There were no opponents or proponents to the bill and the hearing was closed.

#### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 14

Representative South, District 51, sponsor of the bill, stated the purpose of the bill is to ask the committee on priorities to give consideration to an interim study of the election laws in Montana.

#### PROPOSERS

Jo Ann Woodgerd, Secretary of State's Office, stated there are many many problems with the current election laws and due to the recodification process now is the time to clean them up as the staff is on hand to do it and the new laws could be enacted in time for the 1980 election.

Ernie Post, attorney for the AFL-CIO, supported the bill.

John Bell, Montana Association of Clerks and Recorders, urged support of the bill.

Margaret Davis, Montana League of Women Voters, urged support of the bill and presented her written testimony to the committee.

There were no further proponents or opponents to the bill and the hearing was closed.

#### HOUSE BILL 376

Representative Brand, District 28, sponsor of the bill, stated the bill provides an extension on payment of honorariums paid to veterans of the Vietnam conflict.

#### PROPOSERS

Bill McEnaney, Executive Secretary of the Board of Examiners, stated about 200 applications are awaiting final processing and asked for the extension so that they might be completed.

Tony Cummings, American Legion and VFW, supported the bill.

There were no further proponents and no opponents and the hearing was closed.

#### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 14

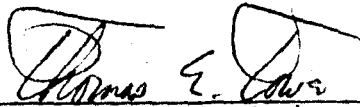
Senator Brown moved House Joint Resolution 14 Be Concurred In. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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The committee discussed the appointment of Dr. Robert Wambach as Director of the Fish and Game Department. The audit of the Forestry Department of the University of Montana was reviewed by the committee and it was felt there was not enough evidence of wrongdoing to indicate non-confirmation. It was felt that if Dr. Wambach wanted the opportunity to respond to the charges in the media and the audit he should be welcomed before the committee to do so.

Some discussion was held concerning the audit of the Real Estate Board and Mr. George Lackman's appointment as Commissioner of Agriculture as he also serves as Chairman of the Board of Real Estate. It was felt any decision should be held until the complete audit report is available.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to reconvene March 9 on adjournment of the Senate.

  
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Thomas E. Towe, Chairman

STATE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Date 3/9/77

[illegible]



# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 9

19 77

MR. President

We, your committee on State Administration

having had under consideration House Bill No. 328

Respectfully report as follows: That House Bill No. 328

XXXXXX BE CONCURRED IN

  
Chairman.

# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 9

19 77

MR. President

We, your committee on State Administration

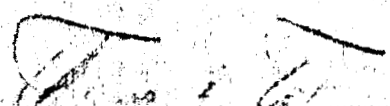
having had under consideration House

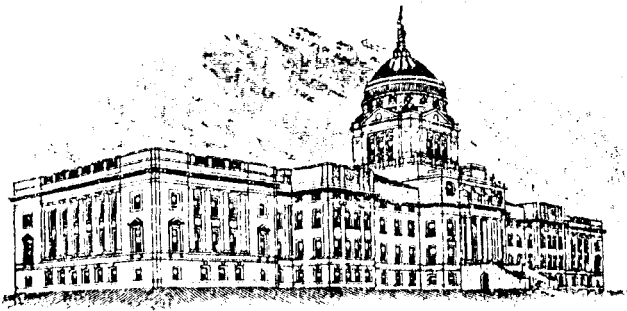
Bill No. 359

Respectfully report as follows: That House

Bill No. 359

~~DO PASS~~ BE CONCURRED IN

  
Chairman.



M. WM. McENANEY, EXECUTIVE CLERK

# STATE OF MONTANA

## STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS

HELENA, MONTANA

March 9, 1977

Senator Thomas E. Towe  
Chairman, Senate State Administration  
Committee  
State Capitol Building  
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Senator Towe:

This morning, your committee held a hearing on House Bill No. 376, a bill to extend the deadline for filing applications for the Vietnam Veterans' Honorarium. At the hearing, you directed a series of questions to me regarding the present status of the appropriations for paying the bonus, and in attempting to answer the questions from "the top of my head", I inadvertently gave you the wrong figures on the appropriation balances.

Upon checking the monthly computer printout sheets, I wish to now quote you the correct figures in answer to your questions:

General Fund Appropriation per HB #1116  
43rd Legislative Session (1974) . . . . . \$2,600,000.00

General Fund Appropriation per HB #692  
44th Legislative Session (1975) . . . . . 710,000.00

Total Appropriated . . . . . \$3,310,000.00

Budget amendment to implement provisions of  
HB #272, 44th Legislature (1975) requiring  
retroactive salary increases for state employees to 1/1/75. . . . . 6,423.00  
TOTAL. . . . . \$3,316,423.00

Expenditures to date (2/26/77) per computer  
printout report . . . . . \$2,902,018.00

Balance in Appropriations. . . . . \$ 414,405.00

I wish to apologize to you and the members of the committee for not having the correct information available at this morning's hearing.

Sincerely,



NAME: Margaret E Davis DATE: 3/8/77

ADDRESS: 917 Harrison, Helena MT 59601

PHONE: 443 3487

REPRESENTING WHOM? League of Women Voters of Montana

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: HSR 14

DO YOU: SUPPORT? X AMEND?        OPPOSE?       

COMMENTS: The problems with recodification of  
election laws and the steady stream of  
bills dealing with modifying those laws have  
made the need for a coordinated study a  
necessity. The League works with these  
laws and finds them becoming more and  
more difficult to use because of conflicts in  
the statutes and archaic requirements.

# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 9

19 77

MR. President

We, your committee on State Administration

having had under consideration House Joint Resolution Bill No. 14

Respectfully report as follows: That House Joint Resolution Bill No. 14

~~DO PASS~~ BE CONCURRED IN

  
Chairman.