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MINUTES OF THE MEETING
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE SENATE

March 30, 1977

The meeting of the Local Government Committee was called to order by Chairman McCallum on March 30, 1977 at 9:40 a.m. in Room 410 of the State Capitol Building.

ROLL CALL: All members were present with Senator Lockrem excused.

The following visitors were present:

Bill Hanson	UPI
Steve Turkiewicz	Mt. Assoc. of Counties
Tom Dowling	Mt. Sheriffs & Peace Officers
Cap Bryant	Mt. Sheriffs & Peace Officers

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL 195: Representative J.D. Lynch, chief sponsor of HB 195 appeared before the Committee. He explained that in the title of the bill the figure \$2400 is misleading. It would only be a \$1200 increase over and above what the schedule would allow presently which is also \$1200. Every sheriff in the state would receive the increase, regardless of size or population of county.

Tom Dowling, Montana Sheriffs & Peace Officers, supported the bill. It would give each sheriff an additional \$100 per month over and above the regular schedule. It would not depend on percentages.

Cap Bryant, Montana Sheriffs & Peace Officers, concurred with Mr. Dowling and Rep. Lynch and asked that the Committee give this a Be Concurred In recommendation.

Opponents: Steve Turkiewicz, Montana Association of Counties opposed this bill. All elected officials deserve additional salary increases but did not think this is the way to do it. Sheriffs and county superintendents already receive an additional \$400 not included in the schedule. He didn't feel the taxpayers can afford to fund this 1.6 million dollar increase and ask that the committee does not concur in this bill.

DISCUSSION OF HOUSE BILL 195: Questions were asked by the committee members. It was mentioned that this would hit the smaller counties harder than the larger ones.

DISCUSSION OF SB 445: SB 445 has been sent back to this committee for possible amendments. Senator Turnage is working on the amendments and will appear before the committee to explain what he believes is in error in the bill. The Committee felt that in view of Sen. Lockrem being absent, it would be only fair to wait to consider this bill until his return.

Senator Turnage was concerned with the fact that it encompassed a great deal more than the Committee thought it did. The Committee did not intend to give the powers to non-chartered cities and counties and Senator Turnage interpreted it as encompassing all 56 counties. Senator McCallum mentioned that it was not as urgent that this bill get to the House in the next day or two as everyone has been led to believe. The House has already suspended the rules to accept it when it is sent over there. Senator Story said his main concern is that the House does not amend the bill to something we do not want.

DISPOSITION OF HB 195: Senator Thiessen moved that HB 195 BE NOT CONCURRED IN. Motion died for lack of a second.

Senator Watt moved that HB 195 be laid on the table for a time, seconded by Senator Thiessen. Motion carried with Dunkle voting no.

DISCUSSION OF HB 667: Senator Watt felt that HB 667, which is in subcommittee at the present time, should perhaps be rewritten striking everything following the enacting clause and encouraging the utilities and the cities to work toward this end. He doesn't feel that the legislature can directly mandate this.

DISCUSSION OF HB 521: Senator Dunkle reported that the subcommittee is working on this bill and he should have a report for the full Committee by at least Monday, April 4.

HJR 7 will be heard on Friday, April 1 and hopefully, HB 211 will be passed out of the Committee on that date.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.



Senator George McCallum, Chairman