

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
FINANCE AND CLAIMS
MONTANA STATE SENATE

April 6, 1977

The twenty-sixth meeting of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee met in room 331 of the State Capitol on the above date. Roll call was taken and the meeting was called to order at 5:22 p.m. by Senator Thiessen, Chairman.

HOUSE BILL 145. Senator Roberts explained that the bill was not changed very significantly by House action. In the House Appropriations Committee they eliminated \$300,000 from the Crippled Children's Program. This had been for an expansion of the program and the amount left in is the level they are at now. They took out \$60,000 for the TB Control Program. This would be a community type program and since the Galen program was continuing, they took this out of Community Affairs. At the meeting this morning the subcommittee decided to go along with the House changes. They deleted some planning funds in the Department of Community Affairs. They found some federal money they could use. They deleted general fund and added \$46,000 of federal money. The subcommittee decided to go along with the House Appropriation recommendations. On the floor of the House, the House Appropriations had added two FTE's. Those positions were taken out in the floor action. It left it at the level we had recommended in the joint committee.

We are aware of some problems that may be coming up asking the Department of Business Regulations, but we have not at this point tried to plug anything in. We may have to meet again on this and one other area. We are satisfied with the budget as it comes over from the House.

Agency I, Senator Boylan. He went through the bill giving the amendments made by the Appropriation Committee and the floor of the House as per the bill underlining and the attached House Appropriation report, and the report to Senator Thiessen from the Fiscal Analyst. All are attached to the minutes of this bill.

In regard to the amendment on page 20, line 9, they had added \$90,000 to implement the Pesticide Program. \$20,048, general fund and \$4,137 earmarked to pay salaries and upgrading of FTE's.

Fish and Game he said had three different departments and whatever they did the Commission overturned in regard to what the Legislature or any other authority told them. They met with the Commissioner a few times to tell them what they wanted. They are having problems in funding because of the licensing of hunters is going down. On the floor of the House page 20, line 19, the effect is to freeze the Wildlife Program where it is.

A question was asked in regard to agriculture -- what effect is the financing of the federal pesticide plan? The answer was that they have to get the information on fees and what is collected in licensing and inspecting.

Department of Lands. We are giving them more to do all the time. They have a bunch of old land records that are not even fire proof. We gave them money to get these records on the computer program. The amount added is \$20,000 page 21, line 10.

A motion was made by Senator Boylan, page 21, line 10, that the \$20,000 each year put in by the House be put back the way the bill came out before the House amended it. Voted, passed. 6:22 p.m. Fasbender, Regan, Roberts, voted no. Mehrens and Smith were absent.

Department of Livestock. We are asking them to break down how much is for human health and how much is for animals. Senator Stephens: I can understand the need for the microbiologist, but what does the Bureau Chief do? Answer. Reviews import and export certificates to see that the veterinarian has filed it to see if they are doing the work. The Veterinarian Technician work right in the livestock yard. Local veterinarians do not like the work and they were contracting out the work to them, but the prices jumped way up and thus the need for the Bureau Chief.

Is the Disease Control Program in the Brucellosis Program and how does the mill levy get into this? Answer. Yes, and the last is built into the bill in anticipation of it passing.

The Department is going to start charging fees on some of the things it does at the lab. Also raise fees. They are going to try to cover this now.

Question. What is the main difference on the budget here? Answer. The Department came in requesting that the general fund pick up the entire amount in the Centralized Services Program. We looked it over and while it came out of their budget recommendations in one place, it went into another and we could see no sense in transferring. The pay plan also had hit the Department of Agriculture pretty hard. The brand inspectors, for instance on the road that they had gotten rather cheap now are being paid overtime.

Senator Regan said this is a big hunk of money and will be a continuing program. Senator Boylan said they had really worked on this budget.

Bob Roberts said they may pick up a few thousand dollars in fees on the public safety fees, but it will not be a self sustaining program. Senator Kolstad said they had probably scrutinized this budget harder than any other except SRS. It was the position of the subcommittee that it is one of the best run departments of the state.

Motion by Senator Regan that we accept the Fiscal Analyst's figures in the appropriation for general fund money for the Diagnostic Lab and Disease Control. General fund, '78-\$164,994 and '79 - \$165,133. Disease Control '78 and '79 - \$-0-. Voted, 6:45 p.m. Defeated.

Senator Boylan said they added 3 FTE's to the oil and gas regulations and 16 FTE's in the Forestry Program. This is to inventory the forest resources on state owned lands and will increase the ones to the schools. The FTE in the fire districts in Helena and Avon areas were also mentioned. They also included \$25,000 general fund money each year of the biennium for the high plains weather modification program at Miles City.

He said the amendments put in on the House floor, page 22, line 13, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. \$100,000 each year of the biennium transferred to the soil and water conservation districts to offset expenses on the streambed.

Discussion was held on which was SCS, which was ASC, and which was SCD money.

On the weather modifications at Miles City, did they look at any documented evidence from the Governor's Office that he had signed or anything?

Discussion was held on the program in Montana as well as other states, and the belief that possibly the Governor would tell us if they needed money, and they had not told us.

Motion by Senator Fasbender to reduce the general fund expenditure by \$25,000, line 15, page 22.

Senator Smith said the wheat program was going to put in \$15,000 and had said so as of last night.

Motion was voted and defeated.

Motion by Senator Regan that unless the money is needed, it may not be spent and will revert back to the general fund.

Voted, passed, unanimous. 7:05 p.m.

Page 24, line 11 and 12. This was added on the floor of the House. Representative Manuel put it in basically because of a bill allowing one more member of the board and per diem previously not allowed.

Motion by Senator Boylan that the professional engineer and surveyors want to go back up to the \$51,063 and \$53,711. Page 25, line 1. Voted and passed unanimous. 7:08 p.m.

Senator Etchart said he would like more information on the Brucellosis Program and why they were cut \$30,000.00. Senator Regan said she also had a motion, she would like to get more information on.

ADJOURNED: Meeting adjourned until 8:00 a.m.



Senator Thiessen, Chairman

ROLL CALL

FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE

45th LEGISLATIVE SESSION 1977

Date 5-150 PM
4-6-

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
THIESSEN, CH	✓		
HIMSL, V.C.	✓		
STORY	✓		
ETCHART	✓		
KOLSTAD	✓		
LOCKREM	✓		
NELSON	✓		
SMITH			
STEPHENS	✓		
FASBENDER	✓		
BOYLAN			
FLYNN	✓		
MEHRENS			
REGAN	✓		
ROBERTS	✓		
THOMAS	✓		

SENATE COMMITTEE

FINANCE AND CLAIMS

Date A-64 Bill No. 105Time 6:45

NAME	YES	NO
Hims1, V.C.		✓
Story	✓	
Etchart		✓
Kolstad		✓
Lockrem		✓
Nelson		✓
Smith <i>ab</i>		
Stephens		✓
Fasbender		✓
Boylan		✓
Flynn	✓	
Mehrens <i>ab</i>		
Regan	✓	
Roberts	✓	
Thomas		✓
Thiessen, Chairman		✓

Secretary

Chairman

Motion:

*by Regan**W J S**21 or 16/18**Oral Vote*

SENATE COMMITTEE

FINANCE AND CLAIMS

Date 4-61st

Bill No.

145

Time

7:01

NAME

YES

NO

Himsl, V.C.

Story

Etchart

Kolstad

Lockrem

Nelson

Smith

Stephens

Fasbender

Boylan

Flynn

Mehrens

Regan

Roberts

Thomas

Thiessen, Chairman

Secretary

Chairman

Motion:

Weather -Let it be 125 per
cent - 2000 - 4