

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
FINANCE AND CLAIMS
MONTANA STATE SENATE

April 14, 1977

The thirty seventh 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 8:07 A.M. by Senator Thiessen, Chairman.

HOUSE BILL 826 was the authorization to purchase the Russell Painting from the Montana Club.

Motion by Senator Kolstad that this bill be concurred in. Voted and passed, unanimous, 8:09 A.M.

HOUSE BILL 818 for a physical education building at Montana Tech.

Motion by Senator Fasbender, second by Senator Mehrens, voted and passed, unanimous. 8:10 A.M.

HOUSE BILL 833, criminal offenders bill. Discussion was held on the study, and Senator Thomas suggested if they were going to conduct a study they would not know what facilities to build until after the study.

Motion by Senator Story, that this bill do not pass. Voted and passed with Senator Roberts voting no.

HOUSE BILL 160 providing money to edit and publish some Montana Convention proceedings.

Motion by Senator Boylan, second by Senator Flynn that this bill do pass. Voted, passed.

HOUSE BILL 233. Technical assistance to Local Governments through Community Affairs Department

Motion by Senator Himsel, second by Senator Regan that HB 233 do not pass. Voted and passed, with Senator Boylan voting no.

HOUSE BILL 242 the day care sliding scale bill was discussed. Dave Lewis from the office of Budget and Planning said it would depend on whether we were looking to get people off welfare.

There was a motion to pass consideration of this bill until another meeting.

HOUSE BILL 261, the bill for mandatory prison sentences was discussed.

Motion by Senator Thomas that House Bill 261 do pass.

Discussion was held on this bill. Senator Regan made a substitute motion that this bill do not pass. She said she felt this was tying the hands of the judge. When the chief justice addressed us he said he hoped we did not do anything until they had a chance to put the whole package together.

Senator Roberts said every year there was more high flown rhetoric without anyone being involved in it. He said he had been working in the county attorney's office at Libby, and it becomes unworkable. You have no grounds to bargain or work with. We might have to build three or four more wings on the prison.

The substitute motion was voted and failed.

The original motion was voted and passed.

HOUSE BILL 272, the bill on the aging services program was briefly discussed. Senator Boylan said this is too expensive to handle.

Motion by Senator Lockrem that this bill do not pass.

Voted and passed, 8:34 A.M.

HOUSE BILL 282, the agricultural experiment station was discussed.

Motion by Senator Kolstad that House Bill 282 do pass.

Substitute motion by Senator Regan that House Bill 282 do not pass.

Discussion was held on this bill, and a vote taken on the substitute motion failed.

Discussion was held on the possibility of funding this through the renewable resources money. Senator Fasbender said he did not feel this is the proper place for the renewable resource money to be put. He said there are a lot of places that need that money, and they can divert some of it so long as it meets the criteria.

Motion to amend line 11, and strike from the general fund, insert--since this was not decided for sure she made a substitute motion to pass consideration for this period of time.

Voted and passed.

HOUSE BILL 450, was the bill to create an extension forester. It was stated that there are 6 FTE in Natural Resources that are supposed to be providing that help. Those 6 FTE's basically have been lifted from what was an attempt to help private land owners. The cost of the extension forester is twice as high putting it here as in the Department of Forestry. The DNC could provide the technical help and the extension service the service.

Motion by Senator Roberts that this bill be not concurred in.

Voted and passed. 8:52 A.M. Senator's Flynn and Boylan voting no.

HOUSE BILL 504, to appropriate supplemental moneys for Capital projects. Representative Bardanoue said they got into the water line and it was much worse than they had thought, and they had to go into the whole thing. They didn't have enough money

to complete the project.

Motion by Senator Fasbender that this bill do pass.
Voted and passed, unanimous 8:58 A.M.

HOUSE BILL 532, the bill to provide state funding to operate the district courts was discussed. Senator Lockrem said it seemed this was no more than a resolution. He said \$95,000 is available LEAA funds, and it has a sunset clause.

Senator Etchart said on page 2, line 15 --in 122 there was a clause for the state to take over all the costs of the courts with few exceptions.

Representative Bardanouye said this bill, as it came in, called for \$11 million general fund. They did not buy that so the sponsors of the bill amended this and made it what it is now. I questioned the propriety of what it was then. It was an attempt to take over all the costs of courts all over the state--then a study to come up with what was already in the bill.

Motion by Senator Regan that House Bill 532 do not pass. Voted and passed, unanimous. 9:02 A.M.

HOUSE BILL 622 was discussed, this was the bill to have welfare recipients work for their check if they were able.

Motion by Senator Fasbender to move the amendments as per enclosed copy for Finance and Claims clarification. Voted and passed 9:06 A.M. No votes were Senators Roberts, Smith, Kolstad, and Nelson.

Motion by Senator Regan that H.B. 622 do pass as amended. Voted, passed, unanimous 9:08 A.M.

HOUSE BILL 649, funding student transportation was briefly discussed. Motion by Senator Roberts, second by Senator Regan that this bill be tabled. Voted, passed, unanimous.

HOUSE BILL 654 by Meloy, on youth detention was briefly discussed.

Motion by Senator Thomas that this bill do not pass. Voted and passed. Roll call vote 9:44 A.M.

HOUSE BILL 663 by Representative Harper on home health services, was discussed. Senator Regan said the intent was to start three new units. You pay for the care part, but it is a tremendously valuable service. She said she wondered if it were possible for them to be started in a less costly manner.

Senator Stephens said they had passed a similar law in public health which allowed them to be licensed so that they could receive federal funds.

Senator Flynn said many people for the sake of a couple of visits a week were able to be kept out of a rest home. Senator Stephens said he wondered why we should give them money to start a profit organization.

Motion by Senator Fasbender that HB 663 do not pass. Voted, passed, 9:21 A.M.

HOUSE BILL 756, by Representative Frates, a bill to provide timely payments by SRS.

Motion by Senator Stephens that this bill do not pass, second by Senator Boylan. Voted, and passed unanimous, 9:22 A.M.

HOUSE BILL 797 by Mular, water rights on state lands was discussed briefly.

Motion by Senator Etchart that we do not concur in this bill. Senator Story suggested the possibility of striking all of section 6. Senator Etchart said this was a bad precedent to set. If the state can do this we will find the federal can do it also.

Substitute motion by Senator Story that we pass consideration of this bill for today. Senator Etchart withdrew his motion and the committee agreed to wait until another meeting to discuss this bill again.

HOUSE BILL 829, the bill by Representative Driscoll to give money for jurisdictional disputes.

Motion by Senator Thomas that this bill do not pass. Voted, passed, 9:34 A.M. No votes were Senators Mehrens and Regan.

HOUSE BILL 832, a bill by Representative Kessler in regard to hard to adopt children.

Motion by Senator Fasbender that this bill do pass. Voted and passed, unanimous. 9:40 A.M.

Discussion was held on the limitation placed on this bill. There was concern over the limitation on medical bills to be paid on these children. It was felt that one major surgery could use up the entire amount, and some had to have more than one. Some of the members thought some of this might be able to be taken care of through a contract.

HOUSE BILL 835, a bill by Representative Kessler in regard to the basic adult education courses was discussed.

Motion by Senator Fasbender that this bill do not pass.

The motion was opposed by Senator Stephens. He said he felt this is a good program and if you visit some of these places and see the pride people have in this--to be able to read and write, I feel it is a program that is needed.

Senator Nelson said he felt that anyplace there is enough interest the local schools will take care of this.

Senator Himsel asked if this program would not be continued if this bill were not passed. He said it had been cut from \$1 million to \$200,000 now.

Senator Fasbender said they are educating people at a very low cost. They are doing a very good job and the program will continue without this bill. He said he did not feel the state is in a position to handle this, it is simply going to have to limit what they get into. There is only so much we can deliver.

Senator Regan said there are two different programs. There is the adult education that is an enrichment program where you get avocation kind of training. Then there is the adult basic education and when they complete this course they get the GED. This is an excellent program. It is funded on a one mill levy and supported by CETA and other federal funds that come into this program. We have 17 centers, and I wish you could see your way to support it.

Motion was voted and passed, roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned.



SENATOR THIESSEN, Chairman

ROLL CALL
FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE
45th LEGISLATIVE SESSION 1977

Date 4-14-77

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 CLAIMSDate 4-14-77Bill No. 649Time 9:30NAME YES NO

Himsl, V.C.

Story

Etchart

Kolstad

Lockrem

Nelson

Smith

Stephens

Fasbender

Boylan

Flynn

Mehrens

Regan

Roberts

Thomas

Thiessen, Chairman

Secretary

Chairman

Motion: CCL