

JANUARY 16, 1979
PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chairman Williams. The secretary called roll. Rep. Ellerd was absent. All other members were present.

HOUSE BILL 42: Rep. Rex Manuel, sponsor, introduced Jim Lear, Legislative Council, who explained the history and need for the bill (exhibit 1). There were no opponents.

HOUSE BILL 33: Rep. Kanduch, sponsor, introduced Mr. Fred Barrett, Dept. of Labor, Employment Security Division, who explained to the Committee what HB 33 would involve. Mr. Barrett stated this bill would make the rules for retired persons collecting unemployment benefits more consistent with national guidelines. Mr. Barrett offered an amendment to HB 33 (exhibit 2). There were no other proponents.

The following were opponents to HB 33:

James Murry, Executive Director, AFL-CIO, stated he appreciates the intent of the bill but thinks the legislation is too harsh and punitive to a group who most need the benefits. He said Montana already has a good and fair employment compensation act.

Mr. Lonny Mayer, Retail Clerks Union, opposed the bill saying that people who are forced to retire on small pensions or very little Social Security, and are in the job market, should be eligible to draw unemployment benefits.

Mr. Tom Ryan, Montana Senior Citizens Association, said he thought HB 33 would be very hard on the low-income retired person.

Representative Harper was excused.

Mr. Joe Crosswhite, Operating Engineers Union, said this bill would hurt those persons who need the benefits most, and may be especially hard on senior citizens and women who don't make much anyway.

Mr. Bill Lawson, Teamsters, said he considers HB 33 to be class legislation, picking on senior citizens who have worked hard in the past and should be appreciated now.

Mr. Pat McKittrick, J.C. Teamsters, stated he opposes the bill for its harshness extended by the amendment and for the same reasons as those already expressed.

The Committee asked questions of the witnesses.

HOUSE BILL 31: Rep. Pavlovich, sponsor, introduced Mr. Harold Kansier, Employment Security Division, who spoke for the bill and offered an amendment (exhibit 3). He stated the bill simply

clarifies the method of charging interest on past-due contributions.

There were no opponents to HB 31.

HOUSE BILL 62: Rep. John Scully, sponsor, said this is a house cleaning bill, that deals with the manner in which wage claims are paid. Rep. Scully introduced Mr. Dick Kane, Administrator of the Labor Standards Division, who spoke for the bill (exhibit 4).

Other proponents were: Doyle B. Saxby, Dept. of Administration, who said the bill would bring the State into compliance with actual practice. Josophie Ann Isaak, also spoke in support of the bill for State Auditor, E.V. "Sonny" Omholt.

There were no opponents.

The Committee went into executive session.

HOUSE BILL 68: Karen Hedblom, staff researcher, reported back to the Committee on HB 68 (exhibit 5). It was moved by Rep. Seifert, and seconded by Rep. Manning that HB 68 DO PASS. The motion carried unanimously. It was moved by Rep. Pavlovich, and seconded by Rep. Manning, that HB 68 be placed on the Consent Calendar. Motion Passed.


HB 31: A motion was made by Rep. Seifert, and seconded by Rep. Manning that HB 31 AS AMENDED DO PASS. Rep. Manning moved that HB 31 be placed on the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Rep. Stobie and passed unanimously.

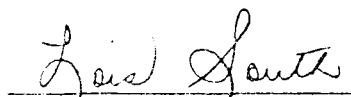
HOUSE BILL 62: A motion was made by Rep. Stobie and seconded by Rep. O'Connell that HB 62 DO PASS. Motion carried. Rep. Harrington moved that HB 62 be placed on the Consent Calendar. Motion Carried.

HOUSE BILL 42: Rep. Seifert made a motion, seconded by Rep. Manning that HB 42 DO PASS. Motion carried. Rep. Manning moved that HB 42 be placed on the Consent Calendar. Motion Carried.

Chairman Williams announced the bills to be heard on Thursday, January 18, 1979.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.


J. Melvin Williams, Chairman


Lois South, Secretary