

January 18, 1979

HUMAN SERVICES PROCEEDINGS:

A Human Services Committee meeting was held January 17, 1979, in the Capitol Annex room #20. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 by the acting Chairman Gene Frates. All members were present except Rep. Harrington and Rep. Holmes.

HOUSE BILL #136--SPONSOR: Rep. Fritz Daily from District 87 introduced the bill stating that it had been recommended by the Attorney General's Office and that it gives authority to the coroner to perform an autopsy in the event of a suspicious death; the guidelines which are given in the bill. PROPONENTS: Mr. Mike McGrath, from the Attorney General's office stated the need for the bill to define a suspicious death and to speed up the investigation by avoiding the bureaucratic channels which are currently required. In the past, there has been a problem with possible homicide bodies being embalmed before an examination was made. Mr. Roland D. Pratt, representative of the Montana Funeral Directors, claimed that his group supported such a bill and hoped that the committee would pass it.

HOUSE BILL #157--SPONSOR: Rep. Carroll South from District 51 introduced the bill stating that it was from a response in his constituency. A lady was prescribed a drug, in his district, not told of it's potential danger when mixed with alcohol and the after affects were nearly fatal. Under this bill, the law would consider a drug misbranded if it did not give the drug's compatibility with alcohol. OPPONENTS: Mr. Frank Davis from the Montana State Pharmaceutical Association claimed that manufacturers currently place such warnings on the bottles and that rather than write a law, to mandate it as an administrative rule. He stated that if a warning was going to be placed on all bottles containing drugs that it should be placed on all bottles of alcohol, since it is a depressant.

The following action was taken:

Rep. O'Connell moved to do pass House Bill #136. A roll call vote was taken and passed 10 to 6.

Rep. Gould moved to do not pass House Bill #157 and was voted on unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 by acting Chairman Gene Frates.

Gene Frates
Chairman
Fritz Daily
Secretary