

January 31, 1979

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS:

A House Human Services Committee meeting was held January 31, 1979, in the Capitol Annex room #20. The meeting was called to order at 12:30 by Chairman Polly Holmes and all members were present except Rep. Dozier.

HOUSE BILL #310 -- SPONSOR: Rep. Jack Rameriz, District #64 introduced his bill saying that it was from a request from the Montana Association of Retired persons to change the make-up of the Board of Hearing Aid Dispensers. This bill is to reduce the number of dispensers on the Board from three to two, and to replace the third with a 60 year or older person. OPPONENTS: Mr. Robert Jurovich, past chairman of the Board of Hearing Aid Dispensers, supports this bill with changes. Reference in the bill was made to the Oto-Ophthalmologists Organization which is splitting nationally. The audiologists competency requirement has been dropped from the Board requirements since passage of a F.D.A. bill which requires dealers on this Board. I have letters from Kalispell and Missoula dealers on the Board who say that if a consumer is put on this Board, it could deter expediency in handling complaints. Last year there were seven complaints which were all handled rapidly; indicating the efficiency of the current status of the Board. A clause should be added to revoke members if they quit the industry, as they should not be allowed to fill a position on this Board. Currently there is a member who has quit the profession and is still on the Board, despite efforts to get him to resign. Mr. Merle Devoe stated that the Senate Bill #247 which combines all 31 occupational licensing boards deals with this issue. I feel they need to change all boards of licensing. Mr. Jim Going stated that as a hearing aid dispenser that he recommend this committee give a do not pass on House Bill #310. Mr. Dudley Anderson, a hearing aid dealer from Helena, respectfully requested the committee give a do not pass recommendation. Mr. John Sweeney, a hearing aid dispenser requested the committee give a do not pass. Mr. Mervin, a hearing aid dispenser, requested that the committee give a do not pass recommendation to this piece of legislation. Mr. Walter Cox, hearing aid dealer, requested that a do not pass be given to House Bill No. 310, because we need a professional approach. One of the jobs of the Board is to screen applicants to grant licenses. A consumer on the Board doesn't have the expertise. Three dealers need to remain for that reason. Rep. Rameriz in his closing statement advocated that it was necessary to have a consumer on that board and especially in the over 60 year old range. He felt that on page two, there should not be an alternate for everyone of the individuals serving on the board. It was the consensus of the committee to amend the bill to have six members on the Board with no more than three from the same congressional district, three members who are hearing aid dispensers, and to stike subsection (3) dealing with alternates.

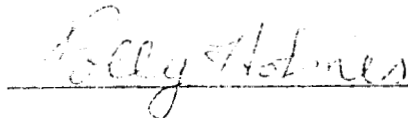
HOUSE BILL #393 -- SPONSOR: Rep. Gene Frates, District #63, introduced his bill saying it was per a request from the Hearing Aid Dispensers Association. He said that this bill addresses problems which have currently been dealt with from F.D.A. legislation. He requested that the committee table the bill for future re-consideration in the event the F.D.A. bill doesn't serve as intended.

HOUSE BILL #160 -- SPONSOR: Rep. Andrea Hemstad, District #40, introduced her letter of intent which a copy is attached.


The following action was taken:

House Bill No. 310 was given a do pass recommendation by Rep. O'Connell. A substitute motion was made by Rep. Harrington to do not pass. This motion was not carried with a 4-15 vote. Rep. Hemstad seconded Rep. O'Connell's do pass recommendation and the motion carried with a 15-4 vote.

House Bill No. 393 was given a table recommendation by it's sponsor Rep. Gene Frates. This motion carried with a unanimous vote.



CHAIRMAN



SECRETARY