

FEBRUARY 1, 1979
PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by Chairman Williams. The secretary took roll. Representatives Seifert and Teague were excused.

HOUSE BILL 190: Rep. Johnston, sponsor, said he was introducing this bill at the special request of the Fire Marshal's Office. He said it has been many years since they have had a pay increase and the purpose of this bill is to raise the pay from \$40 per day to \$56 per day for special deputy fire marshals. He said the fire marshal hires a deputy only occasionally and he did not think the increase out of line. Rep. Johnston submitted a statement from Robert E. Kelly, State Fire Marshal, in support of the bill (exhibit 1).

The following were proponents to HB 190:

Dave Fisher, Montana Fire Chief's, Butte, said deputies are not used often and the job is worth more than \$40.00 a day.

Art Korn, Montana State Volunteer Firemen's Association, Helena.

Robert Ellis, Montana State Volunteer Firemen's Association, Helena.

There were no opponents.

Questions were asked by the Committee. Rep. Ellerd said he wondered if a fiscal note might be needed. Mr. Fisher said the deputies are paid out of the fire marshal's budget, and the fire marshal always reverts some of his funds back to the general fund at the end of the fiscal year. He said there are only 4 deputies and they are not used all the time.

HOUSE BILL 306: Rep. Gould, sponsor, said this bill was before the Labor Committee 2 years ago and had opposition from Jim Murry, AFL-CIO. Rep. Gould said he recommended putting the bill in a 2 year study and it was put in the Governor's Study on the Handicapped. He said many safeguards were built into the original bill, but were taken out by the Legislative Council when the bill was being drafted. Rep. Gould introduced Norman Grosfield, Division of Worker's Compensation, who spoke in favor of the bill and offered written testimony and amendments to the bill (exhibits 2 & 3).

The following were proponents: James Murry, AFL-CIO, said they support the bill with the amendments. Bob Donaldson, DSRS, spoke in favor of the bill with the amendments. Gerald Neils, Montana Logging Association, and Pat Melby, Alliance of American Ins. spoke in favor of the bill.

There were no opponents. Questions were asked by the committee.

HOUSE BILL 302: Rep. Quilici, sponsor, said this bill applied only to firefighters and their public employers. He said this bill would make it mandatory, if there was an impasse, for both sides to sit down with an arbitrator and come to an agreement.

Proponents to HB 302 were:

Les Nilson, Montana State Fireman's Association; Ray Blehm, Montana State Council of Professional Firefighters & Montana State Firemen's Association (exhibit 4). James Murry, AFL-CIO, said they support the bill, but the binding arbitration should apply to firefighters only and not to other employees.

Opponents were: Jim Nugent, City of Missoula, (exhibit 5). Larry McGinley, Butte, offered amendments (exhibit 6). Jim Campbell, City of Helena, (exhibit 7). W. Doyle Williams, City of Great Falls, (exhibit 8). Harold Guthrie, City of Livingston, (exhibit 9). Ed Sedivy, City of Bozeman, (exhibit 10). Richard Larsen, City of Billings, (exhibit 11).

Rep. Quilici closed the hearing. He said he knew there would be a lot of opposition when it comes to binding arbitration. He asked the Committee to consider all the testimony of proponents and opponents when making their decision on this bill.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

HOUSE BILL 214: It was moved by Rep. Dozier that HB 214 AS AMENDED, DO PASS. The motion carried unanimously. Rep. Manning made a motion to place HB 214 on the consent calendar. Motion carried unanimously.

HOUSE BILL 323: It was moved by Rep. Harrington that HB 323 DO PASS. The motion carried unanimously. Rep. Manning moved to place HB 323 on the consent calendar. Motion carried unanimously.

HOUSE BILL 306: Rep. O'Connell made a motion that HB 306 AS AMENDED, DO PASS. Motion carried unanimously.

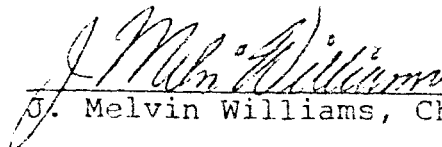
Rep. Stobie objected to so many bills being placed on the consent calendar. He said he thought the bills should have some debate.


HOUSE BILL 290: It was moved by Rep. O'Connell that HB 290 DO PASS. Motion carried unanimously.

HOUSE BILL 200: Rep. Harrington made a motion that HB 200 DO NOT PASS. Motion carried 14-1. Rep. Underdal voted no.

HOUSE BILL 189: A motion was made by Rep. Manning that HB 189 DO PASS. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.


J. Melvin Williams, Chairman


Lois South, Secretary