

HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS:

A House Services Committee meeting was held February 12, 1979, in the Capitol Annex, room #20. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Holmes at 12:30, and all members were present except for Rep. Gosek, and she was excused.

Rep. O'Connell moved at the onset of the hearing that since all the bills were so closely related and there were no opponents, that they should all be heard as a package. This motion carried by the committee unanimously.

HOUSE BILL #233 -- SPONSOR: Rep. Bennett, District #15, introduced the bill stating that it deals with the Board of Dentistry and that its purpose is three-fold: 1. It makes students and teachers exempt from having to purchase a license; 2. Formulates a regional board for clinical examinations rather than individual state boards; 3. Allows the board to set up the fees to be "commensurate with costs" to offset its existence. He asked that the committee give the bill a do pass recommendation.

HOUSE BILL #234 -- SPONSOR: Rep. Bennett, District #15, introduced this bill to change the Board of Dentists to the Board of Dentistry to include dental hygienists. He said that rather than give them their own board, they not just give them representation on the existing board, but regulates them. There are proposed amendments which the House will pass around, and I concur with them and hope you will give the measure a do pass recommendation.

HOUSE BILL #585 -- SPONSOR: Rep. Gould, District #98, introduced the bill stating that the Federal Trade Commission now allows professionals to advertise, and this gives rulemaking authority to the Board of Dentistry to regulate advertising. This bill also allows dental hygienists to go to institutions to do work without having to have professional supervision, and gives the forensic board the power to mandate rules stating that all dentures must have the person's name engraved on them for identification purposes. The cost to do this would be small compared to the benefits received.

OPPOSITIONS ON HOUSE BILLS #233, #234, AND #585: Dr. Wood, Member of the Board of Dentists, stated that he supports all three bills and that the Board is supported by fees rather than tax dollars and with rulemaking authority to set the fees, they could bring the fees in line with the costs. Having a state examination board is costing the state a great deal of money, and I concur with the recommendation for a regional board. Mr. John Oliman, Montana Dental Association supports these bills and that they are primarily housekeeping bills. Mrs. J. Swenson, President of the Montana Dental Hygienists Association supports the bill saying that it would give a student more of a chance for better education than currently is available. By giving the Board of Dentistry rulemaking authority to set the fees, it would give them enough income to adequately fund their programs. She went on to say that although dental hygienists are a very important part of the state's dental health care delivery system, they

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should have a dental member on this Board, which regulates their practice. It is a very unusual situation for a licensed profession not to be represented in the Board that regulates them. I encourage you to vote a do pass recommendation on all three of these bills. Ms. Joanne Karr, Head of the Dental Hygienists program at Carroll College, supports this bill because they have been limited by the Current Practices Act, and because, they have been unable to educate the students in dental skills necessary for full service as dental hygienists. Section 3 of House Bill #233 provides that academic freedom which allows the teaching of a broader curriculum for the preparation of the dental hygienists to give better service to the citizens of Montana. Ms. Jeanette Buchanan, representing the authors of the bill stated that she felt the Dental Hygienists should be represented in their own regulatory Board. Mr. John Lohman, Director of the Montana Dental Association stated that his group urges the committee to give a do pass recommendation on all three bills currently before them.

The following action was taken:

Rep. Bennett moved that House Bill #233 be given a do pass recommendation. This motion carried unanimously.

Rep. Bennett moved that House Bill #234 as amended be given a do pass recommendation. This motion carried unanimously.

Rep. Rada moved that House Bill #585 as amended be given a do pass recommendation. This motion carried unanimously.

Rep. Prates moved that House Bill #235 as amended be given a do pass recommendation. This motion did not carry with a vote of 7 to 10.

Rep. O'Connell gave a substitute motion that House Bill #235 do not pass. This motion carried with a 10 to 7 vote.

Rep. Rada moved that House Bill #304 be tabled for later action. This motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Rep. Gould moved that House Bill #463 be given a do pass recommendation. This motion carried with a 15-2 vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:15 by Chairman Holmes.

CHAIRMAN

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