

FEBRUARY 15, 1979  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Williams at 11:30 p.m. The secretary took roll. Reps. Ellerd, Fagg, O'Connell, Porter and Teague were absent.

HOUSE BILL 642: Rep. Harper, sponsor, said this bill would prohibit former state employees from contracting or being employed by a contractor with the state for 6 months following the termination of his employment. He said this has been a major problem in the past. He said this kind of thing has happened in the past and this bill would prevent it from happening in the future.

Proponent, Mike Meldahl, Office of Budget and Program Planning, said the bill does not prohibit these people from bidding on a job, and applies only to former employees.

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

HOUSE BILL 671: Rep. Menahan, sponsor, was testifying at another hearing, so the bill was presented by Rep. Harrington. He said the bill would require that contractors and subcontractors of public works contracts provide their employees with a health and welfare program and a pension plan.

Proponent, Pat McKittrick, Joint Council of Teamsters, said there have been instances where a contractor has attained a bid and later it has been determined they have no health or welfare plan. This bill would require the employer to certify that he does have such a plan.

John St. Jermain said there have been several instances when a contractor did not have a health and welfare plan and the employee became seriously ill, and became a burden on welfare.

Terry Bass, Montana Contractors Association, said he came to oppose HB 671, but after talking to Pat McKittrick he understands the bill better and supports it. He said he thought the bill would be another burden to the contractor. He said his only concern is that if the bill passes and contractors are required to certify they do have a health, welfare, and pension plans, that it be done expeditiously.

Joe Crosswhite, Operating Engineers, and Joe Rossman, Montana Joint Council of Teamsters, urged the committee to recommend a DO PASS motion.

Gary Curtis, Department of Labor and Industry, said he was neither an opponent or proponent to the bill. He said the department had reviewed the bill and determined it would not cause them any additional problems or costs, and could be done expeditiously.

There were no opponents. Rep. Menahan closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

HOUSE BILL 672: Rep. Menahan, sponsor, asked the committee to table this bill. A motion was made by Rep. Stobie to TABLE HB 672. Motion carried unanimously.

HOUSE BILL 671: It was moved by Rep. Manning that HB 671 DO PASS. Motion carried 10-1. Rep. Stobie voted no.

HOUSE BILL 642: It was moved by Rep. Seifert that HB 642 DO PASS. Motion carried unanimously.

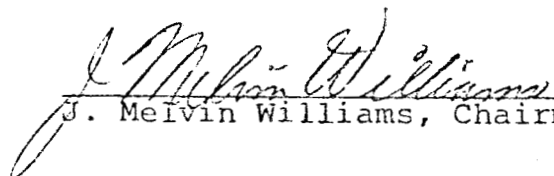
HOUSE BILL 636: Rep. Harper said he would like to work out some amendments to HB 636 and ask that it be held. Rep. Seifert made a motion that HB 636 DO NOT PASS. Rep. Manning made a substitute motion to hold HB 636 until the amendments were in place. Motion carried 8-3. Reps. Stobie, Seifert, and Underdal voted no.

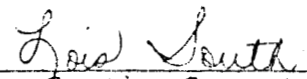
HOUSE BILL 527: Researcher, Karen Hedblom, reported back to the committee on HB 527. She said she had talked with Rep. South and he said that if the committee decides to pass the bill it will have to be amended because it does the opposite of what the Montana Education Association wants it to do. Rep. Dozier made a motion that HB 527 DO NOT PASS. Motion carried 9-2. Reps. Harper and Manning voted no.

HOUSE BILL 195: Rep. Manning said he had been asked by the sponsor to ask the committee to postpone the bill indefinitely. Rep. Manning made a motion that HB 195 be TABLED. Motion carried unanimously.

HOUSE BILL 54: Rep. Harper is working on amendments.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

  
J. Melvin Williams, Chairman

  
Lois South, Secretary