

FEBRUARY 17, 1979
PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m. by Chairman Williams. The secretary took roll. Rep. Teague was excused. All other members were present.

HOUSE BILL 766: Rep. Ramirez, co-sponsor, submitted amendments to HB 766 (exhibit 1). He said the amendments would move Rep. Hand's HB 143 into HB 766. He said Rep. Hand was in favor of making the two bills one. He said the bill is an act to revise the unemployment compensation laws relating to the minimum weekly benefit amount, the duration of benefits, qualifying wages, and disqualification of benefits. He said that the bill would tighten up requirements where there have been abuses and misuses for gross misconduct and voluntary quits. Rep. Ramirez introduced Harold Kansier, Dept. of Labor and Industry, who spoke for the bill.

Jerry Driscoll, Billings, said he came as an opponent to the bill, but with the amendments he is a proponent. He said other legislation being introduced this session has been aimed at employers to help build up the fund. He said the burden should not be placed only on employers, but should be shared by the employee. He said there is a need to tighten up on cases of gross misconduct and voluntary quits.

Opponent, James Murry, AFL-CIO, said this bill falls in line with other legislation that has been introduced this session to tighten up the requirements and make it more difficult to qualify for benefits. He said the amendments make the bill a better bill than it would be without them.

A motion was made to let Rep. Harper present the amendments on HB 143 to the committee (exhibit 2). Questions were asked by the committee.

HOUSE BILL 757: Rep. Brand, sponsor, said this bill would provide benefits based on former employment status to a former public employee on disability retirement in an amount equal to the contribution made by a public employer toward group insurance premiums. Rep. Brand submitted amendments to the bill (exhibit 3).

Tom Schneider, Montana Public Employee's Association, spoke in favor of the bill, with the amendments.

Opponent, Dan Mizner, said the bill mandated cost to local government without giving them funds to pay the cost (exhibit 4).

HOUSE BILL 750: Rep. Kessler, sponsor, said this bill would limit the number of hours that a child under 18 years of age and enrolled in school could work. He said there is a real problem with students who work until 2:00 a.m. because they have debts to pay off. He said these students do not function well in school. He said there is a provision in the bill for hardship cases. There were no opponents or proponents.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

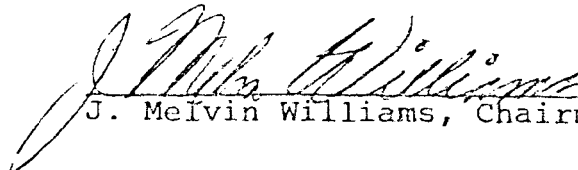
HOUSE BILL 636: Rep. Harper made a motion that the amendments to HB 636 DO PASS. Motion carried. Discussion was held among the committee members. Rep. Stobie made a motion that HB 636 DO NOT PASS. Motion carried. Reps. Harper, Dozier, and Menahan voted no.

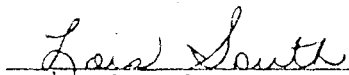
HOUSE BILL 54: Rep. Harper made a motion that the amendments to HB 54 DO PASS. Motion carried unanimously. Discussion was held among the committee members. It was moved that HB 54 DO PASS, AS AMENDED. Motion carried. Reps. Ellerd, Fagg, Seifert, Wyrick, and Underdal voted no.

HOUSE BILL 766: Reps. Harper, Porter, and Harrington were appointed to a subcommittee to study the amendments to HB 766 and HB 143.

HOUSE BILL 540: Rep. Manning made a motion to get HB 540 sent back to committee so the committee could reconsider their action. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Williams checked with the leadership and found out this action was illegal.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.


J. Melvin Williams, Chairman


Lois South, Secretary