

APPROPRIATIONS - FINANCE & CLAIMS

SUB-COMMITTEE: HUMAN SERVICES

JANUARY 26, 1979 - CAPITOL ANNEX

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m. by Chairman, Steve Waldron with the following members present:

Chairman Steve Waldron
Senator Gary Aklestad
Representative Bill Hand
Representative Robert Marks
Senator Pat Regan
Senator Pete Story

Others present were: Bob Redpath, Management Services Bureau; A. C. Knight, Director of DHES; Ben Wake, Administrator of the Environmental Sciences Division; Dennis Thurston, Management Services Bureau; Duane L. Robertson, Chief of the Solid Waste Management Bureau; Vernon E. Sloulin, Chief of the Food and Consumer Safety Bureau; Curt Nichols, LFA; Linda Gambill and Ron Weiss, Executive Budget Office.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BUREAU

This program is responsible for the Junk Vehicle Program, operating and screening landfills, enforcing regulations and hazardous waste management. There are ten FTEs in the program. They passed through \$615,000 to the county level last year. The Junk Vehicle Program is run through the county. The Fiscal Analyst's budget will have to be adjusted because the January estimates on the number of vehicles and the amount that will have to be distributed to the counties is higher. The LFA will have the adjusted budget by the work session.

Duane Robertson, Chief of the Solid Waste Management Bureau, spoke on behalf of the program. He handed out a sheet which detailed the operations of the bureau, its background, the funding and three projects which have to be approved. He told the committee that the state has one of the best Junk Vehicle Programs in the United States. It has been expanded to include white goods (refrigerators, etc.) and also they are providing a place for empty pesticide cans. The county contracts at ten dollars per ton for crushing. The state is now bringing in less money from the fees for licensing and transferring titles than it is paying out to the counties. At this point in time there is a surplus in fees to cover the difference, however there is talk that the surplus may be reverted to general funds in which case they would need to raise the funds immediately.

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The solid waste management is responsible for licensing and inspecting all landfills. They are still working to bring all landfills up to proper standards. The Solid Waste Program is using a grant of \$300,000 to plan solid waste systems throughout the state. Mr. Robertson felt this was a very worthwhile program.

The Hazardous Waste Program is a brand new program. The 1977 Legislature gave the state the authority to handle hazardous waste in the state. The federal government is supplying the state with money for hazardous waste management. However, the program will need an FTE. The subcommittee will be deciding if they want the state to get into the Hazardous Waste Program. They need one FTE immediately and one more later to run the program. They would like to at least identify the sources of the waste. Mr. Robertson felt the state would do the best job of monitoring these wastes. Senator Regan questioned the advantage of taking over a federal program.

Mr. Robertson was concerned with the proposed budget. In the past they did have a contingency fund with about ninety to one hundred thousand dollars in case the cost of scrapping cars became more than they took in. They would like to keep that contingency. It would fall under grants. He also felt they needed more funds to bring the program up to their potential. He felt that at least \$767,305 was needed for FY 80 and about the same for FY 81. It would be monies from fees; however, it does have to be authorized.

Mr. Robertson then went through two EPA grants that the subcommittee has to approve. One for \$39,628 for a study on particle size on landfill and the second a transfer of funds from FY 78 to FY 79 in the amount of \$3,000. These are federal funds and authorization is needed from the subcommittee to transfer them.

FOOD & CONSUMER SAFETY

This program is responsible for licensing hotels, motels, campsites and eating places. They also handle insect and rodent control. Last year they passed \$166,000 through to the local level. They brought in \$140,000 from license fees which goes into the general fund. The LFA recommends no modifications for this program.

Mr. Vernon E. Sloulin, Chief of the Food & Consumer Safety Bureau, spoke on behalf of the program. He explained that the main function of the bureau was to service local communities. They recruit, train and help work on the local

budget. By recruiting and training sanitarians, local areas get better and more direct services. They are now up to sixty sanitarians throughout the state.

The sanitarians inspect over seven thousand establishments and charge \$20.00 per establishment. These funds go back to the general fund. Funds are appropriated by the legislature to go back to the counties. Mr. Sloulin is very concerned because of the cut back of funds to go to the counties. The counties already feel they are not getting enough for the work they do. The money is funded under grants. Generally \$11,000 goes into administration.

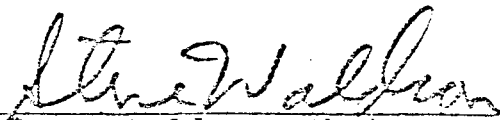
Mr. Sloulin was questioned on the eight sanitarians he has. He was asked why they had to be sanitarians. Mr. Sloulin felt this gave them insight into the problems and regulations he was enforcing. He was also asked why they needed eight of them. He explained that two administer the food and drug law. They also take hamburger samples throughout the state. One is a jail and institution inspector; one is with the licensing program, which includes licensing hotels, motels, and campsites; two are involved in the vector control program which deals with controlling mosquitoes and rats and one is located in the Billings area office.

Mr. Sloulin also told the subcommittee he had asked for one more FTE to be placed in Missoula. This was not included in either budget. Also he is concerned because the travel in the program has been cut back 15% by the Executive Budget Office. He felt they really needed the travel money, so they can go out and train in the field. Most all their training is on the job training.

Dr. Knight, Director of DHES, made a response to the ranking of importance of programs. He ranked Water Quality, #1; Food & Consumer Safety, #2; Air Quality, #3; Subdivision Review, #4 and Solid Waste, #5.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Steve Waldron, Chairman
Approved

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