

APPROPRIATIONS - FINANCE & CLAIMS

SUBCOMMITTEE: HUMAN SERVICES

AGENCY I

MARCH 2, 1979 - CAPITOL ANNEX

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 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: See attached list.

The divisions to be discussed this morning were outlined by Curt Nichols, LFA. They are the Commissioner's Office, Centralized Services, Labor Administration, Personnel Appeals Division, Employment & Training Council and CETA Subgrants.

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

Dave Fuller, Commissioner of DL & I, explained the office which consists of the commissioner and an administrative assistant. The funding is derived from an assessment on the rest of the department. Therefore there is an assessment against six divisions. Two percent of the funds are general fund money; the rest comes from earmarked and federal money. About 75% comes from the Employment Security Division.

Mr. Fuller felt the Executive proposed budget was reasonable and asked the subcommittee to accept it. It budgets a 14% increase with no increases in FTEs. The increase from 1978 was do to readjustment within the program.

Curt Nichols explained the bulk of the difference between budgets was in operating expenses. The LFA worked off of the 1978 actual budget while the OBPP worked off of 1979.

Bill Salsibury, Administrator of Centralized Services, also explained that the LFA recommendation for transfers was lower. Curt Nichols explained that this was due to the fact that the LFA recommended less funds for Centralized Services.

CENTRALIZED SERVICES

Centralized Services is not used for Workers' Compensation

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or the Employment Security Division. They do handle the accounting for Human Rights. The service is responsible for the accounting, budgeting, secretarial pool and personnel for the remaining divisions. Bill Salisbury, Administrator of Centralized Services, spoke about the program. He explained that it didn't take additional funding; but was funded from transferred funds from the other divisions. The divisions are assessed monthly. Mr. Salisbury felt this was a good management tool and had a balancing effect. There is a difference of about \$20,000 in the budgets; he felt that the bureau was cut to the very basics now and could not take further cuts.

Curt Nichols, LFA, explained that there is about \$2,000 difference in rent. The LFA took a 3% vacancy savings and The Executive has added something since the original budget which he was not sure of.

Bill Salisbury told the subcommittee that they are only budgeting \$2,400 over last year and that the 1978 figures used were very low. Mr. Salisbury also told the subcommittee that they have a \$5,000 utility bill which was caused by Montana Power making an error during the year.

LABOR STANDARDS DIVISION

Dick Kane, Administrator of the Labor Standards Division, explained the division. There are three bureaus within the division: the Standards Bureau; the Women's Bureau and the Apprenticeship Bureau. The division administers fourteen laws and has seventeen FTEs; ten in the Standards Bureau, five in the Apprenticeship Bureau and two in the Women's Bureau.

Apprenticeship Bureau

Dick Michels, Chief of the Apprenticeship Bureau, explained that this program is funded on the large part by federal funds due to the work done with veterans. They are losing 25% of these funds in FY 80 and 35% in FY 81 because of a decrease in the number of veterans. There is a budget amendment to replace lost funds. The amendment is not included in the prepared budgets because they just found out about the decrease.

Dick Kane added that although the veterans have decreased, the program is expanding. The federal government has just adopted hundreds of new occupations which qualify for the program; the state will add about 120 to 125 new occupations from that list. Also there are more people in the program.

Standards Bureau

This bureau was given five new PTEs last Legislature with the intention that they be justified this Legislature. Mr. Kane told the subcommittee they have increased their collections by 57% in 1978 and they project an increase of 66% for FY 79. The OBPP cut the travel budget for this bureau. The bureau felt this would crimp their work. They already attempt to double up with other agencies when traveling and schedule work accordingly.

The Montana Nurses' Collective Bargaining Act, the Blue-Eyed Nurses Bill, was brought up for discussion. Mr. Ed Mares, Montana Nurse's Association, explained to the subcommittee that the Labor Standards Division does not have the funds nor personnel to handle this act properly. They would like to see it moved to the Personnel Appeals Division where they have qualified personnel. This can be done by the commissioner of the department.

Women's Bureau

This bureau handles employer awareness on behalf of women in such areas as wage and hour, training, recruitment and maternity problems. They also sponsor and cosponsor workshops, handle speaking engagements and set-up women's programs. The bureau is entirelyly general fund money.


EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING DIVISION

Curt Nichols introduced the program. It is 100% federal funding and has recently been mandated to set up an independent monitoring system.

Bruce DeRosier, Executive Director of the Employment and Training Division, gave an overview of the program. They are responsible for administering CETA subgrants and monitoring the actual programs. They must audit 100% expenditures. The council meets monthly to monitor the program. They serve three client sectors: adult training, public service employment and youth work experience. The goal is to hire unemployed disadvantaged individuals. The division serves about 17,000 individuals.

PERSONNEL APPEALS DIVISION

Curt Nichols advised the members of the subcommittee that the



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Executive Budget Office has added a revision to their budget. Dave Fuller, Commissioner of the department, explained that they had built back into the budget an attorney position. They had a bill in Legislature to combine attorneys with the Human Rights Division; however, the legislation failed. Therefore, they need to add the position back in. The attorney does preliminaries on unfair labor practice grievances among other things. Linda Gamble, OBPP, added that the Executive Budget Office does recommend reinstating the attorney position.

The division's activities fall in three categories: 1) Administrate the Collective Bargaining Act for public, state and municipal employees. This includes promulgating rules and regulations, determining appropriate bargaining units, conducting representational elections, providing impasse services for mediation, fact finding and arbitration, and resolving unfair labor practices. 2) Handling Classification Appeals for the state which at present is backlogged. 3) Handling grievances for the Highway and Fish & Game Departments.

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

Respectfully submitted:



Steve Waldron, Chairman
Approved

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