

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BUSINESS & INDUSTRY COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE SENATE

January 12, 1979

The meeting of the Business and Industry Committee was called to order by Chairman Frank Hazelbaker on the above date in Room 404 of the State Capitol Building at 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

Chairman Hazelbaker called on Senator Dover, Sponsor of Senate Bill 73 to give us an explanation of the bill. He said, "the bill would provide FM stereo radio services through repeaters similar to television repeaters. Too many of our areas are not able to get FM.)" He stated the summation which is attached was very good and pretty much self-explanatory.

SENATE BILL 73: This bill would allow a television district to construct and operate an FM radio translator facility in addition to providing television services. The additional service and the tax on FM units would be authorized in substantially the same manner as the original creation of the TV district; that is, by petition to and hearing and resolution by the County Commissioners.

Senator Dover would encourage a Do Pass on this bill.

Chairman Hazelbaker introduced W. A. Merrick, Lobbyist for the Montana Broadcasters Association. His testimony is attached.

Senator Goodover gave background on FM translators in Montana and said it provides a service that would be impossible to put in locally. He said it does not adversely affect anyone.

The bill was put up for questions.

Senator Blaylock asked Senator Dover if there was any opposition at all. Senator Dover said, "none that he knew of."

Senator Kolstad brought up the subject of cost. Lobbyist Merrick said the cost would be negligible and would cost the people in a particular district no more than a dollar or two a year.

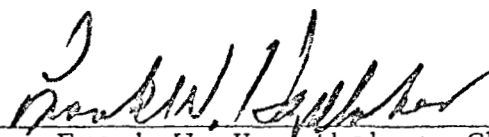
Chairman Hazelbaker recommended amendments added to clarify the type of translators and receivers to which the bill applies. He asked the Committee if they would want to make a motion to add the corrected amendments.

Senator Goodover made a motion that Senate Bill 73 Do Pass as so amended. Senator Dover seconded the motion. The bill passed unanimously.

Chairman Hazelbaker instructed the secretary to report Senate Bill 73 out of committee after the amendments are perfected.

Chairman Hazelbaker stated he would like to consider all agency bills from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner on one day. The Committee will be furnished narratives on all of them.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.



Frank W. Hazelbaker, Chairman

BILLS TO BE HEARD BY
THE SENATE BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE

JANUARY 12, 1979

Bill
SB 73

Sponsor
Dover

This bill would allow a television district to construct and operate an FM radio translator facility in addition to providing television services. The additional service and the tax on FM units would be authorized in substantially the same manner as the original creation of the TV district; that is, by petition to and hearing and resolution by the county commissioners.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

January 12,

1979

MR. PRESIDENT

We, your committee on BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

having had under consideration SENATE Bill No. 73

Respectfully report as follows: That SENATE Bill No. 73

That Senate Bill No. 73 introduced bill, be amended as follows:

1. Title, line 5.
Strike: "AM or"
2. Page 1, line 10.
Strike: "AM or"
3. Page 1, line 12.
Following: "operate"
Strike: "an AM or"
Insert: "a broadcast"
Following: "facility"
Insert: "(88 to 108 megacycles)"
4. Page 1, line 14.
Strike: "AM or"

DO PASS

(CONTINUED)

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5. Page 1, line 17.

Strike: "AM or"

6. Page 1, line 18.

Following: "broadcasts"

Insert: "(88 to 108 megacycles)"

7. Page 4, line 15.

Strike: "AM or"

8. Page 4, line 18.

Strike: "or AM"

9. Page 4, line 21.

Strike: "~~AM~~ or"

10. Page 5, line 4.

Strike: "AM or"

11. Page 5, line 7.

Strike: "AM or"

Following: "broadcasts"

Insert: "(88 or 108 megacycles)"

12. Page 6, line 2.

Strike: "AM or"

13. Page 6, line 4.

Strike: "AM or"

14. Page 6, line 5.

Following: "broadcasts"

Insert: "(88 to 108 megacycles)"

15. Page 7, line 8.

Strike: "AM or"

16. Page 7, line 9.

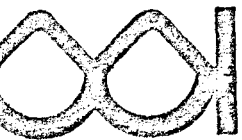
Strike: "AM or"

J.O.

And, as so amended

DO PASS





montana broadcasters association

TESTIMONY OF W. A. MERRICK

Lobbyist - Montana Broadcasters Association
January 12, 1979

SB # 73

Senate Committee on Business and Industry

Senator Frank Hazelbaker, Chairman

Mr. Chairman: The legislation before this Committee is essentially an amendment to the current television translator law to include FM radio translators in existing translator districts in our state and to allow the creation of new FM translator districts, similar to the current TV translator districts.

This means that many more people will be able to enjoy FM radio broadcasts and in some cases, areas will be served for the first time with 24 hour local radio where before they have had only daytime access to Montana signals. Through translators, rural areas or remote communities will get dependable weather news and local sports through community sponsored translators.

In the case of existing TV translator districts, the FM capability can be added at a nominal cost and the finance and administration of the district can be done under the same legal framework with the same maintenance personnel.

Several FM translators already exist in the state, owned and operated by the mother station. Several others exist in districts such as the

law before you creates. These later districts are currently operating without legal sanction. They are serving well but need to be brought under Montana law.

The Montana Broadcasters Association, which I represent, recommends the bill before the Committee.

Some of your members, Senator Goodover and Senator Dover, sponsors of the bill, have first hand knowledge of the operation of FM translators and could probably explain their need better than I, so I will not go into a long explanation at this time. If you do have questions, I will attempt to answer them.

Thank you.