

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
RULES
MONTANA STATE SENATE

March 16, 1979

The meeting of the Senate Rules Committee was called to order by Chairman Stephens at 11:40 a.m. on the above date in Room 331 of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: All members were present, with the exception of Senators Graham and Thiessen.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL 237 (introduced by Marks). This bill is the result of a recommendation out of the Legislative Improvement Committee. It was amended in the House, but the general intent of the bill is to streamline the way the interim studies and study committees are selected.

As it stands now the problem arises at the end of the session when all these bills are stacked up in a pile and there is no time to decide a particular idea in mind. There is widespread dissatisfaction with the way the Priorities Committee acted on the requests when a legislator's particular request was not put in a certain interim study.

Senator Blaylock stated his quarrel with the bill is the treatment of the minority. It takes away from them any authority. He is opposed to the bill unless this is corrected. Speaker Gerke stated that he doesn't have quite the concern that Senator Blaylock does. He feels that whoever wins the majority should have this authority and to the victor goes the spoils.

Further discussion resulted in the recommendation that an amendment be drafted by John Larson rewording the language in Section 1 providing that appointment and composition of joint subcommittees shall be selected by the Legislative Council. The chairmen of the appropriate standing committees in each body shall recommend suggested members to serve on each subcommittee. The Legislative Council shall consider the recommendations, but is not bound thereby. No legislator shall serve on more than two interim joint subcommittees.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 46 (introduced by Fagg) AND HOUSE BILL 837.

These are companion bills, the resolution being a backup to the bill. They are intended to amend the Joint Rules of the 46th Legislature by streamlining the committee structure and adding a new section numbered 6-6.1.

Proponents testifying were: Speaker Gerke, John Fitzpatrick, Deputy Director Office of Budget and Program Planning, and Margaret Davis speaking for Joy Bruck of the League of Women Voters.

It was the consensus of the committee to forego action on these two bills until further study at another meeting.

AMENDMENT TO THE TITLE OF S.B. 74: Motion was made by Senator Turnage to amend the title to reflect the change in the body of the bill, and that the bill be sent to enrolling. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.



Stan Stephens, Chairman

SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL VOTE ON

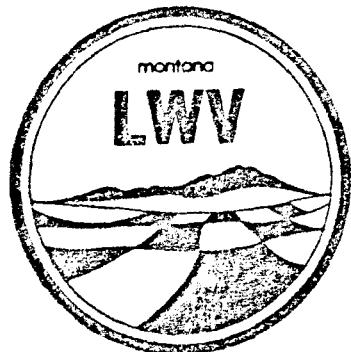
DATE 3-16-7

Present	Absent	Name of Member	Aye	No	Not Voting
✓		Blaylock			
	✓	Graham			
✓		Hazelbaker			
✓		Jergeson			
✓		Kolstad			
✓		Mathers			
✓		Smith			
	✓	Thiessen			
✓		Turnage			
		Bardanouye			
		Brand			
		Dussault			
		Gerke			
		Huennekens			
		Kvaalen			
		Moore			
		Ramirez			
		Sivertsen			
		Vincent			
✓		Stephens, Chairman			
8	2	TOTAL			

Willa McKay
Secretary

MOTION:

PROPOSED COMMITTEE	EXISTING COMMITTEE	BILLS IN HOUSE '77	BILLS IN SENATE '77
Human Services	Education Public Health Labor	87 81 89 <u>257</u>	68 70 53 <u>191</u>
Legal Services	Judiciary	196	173
Revenue	Taxation	180	155
Agriculture and Business	Business & Industry Agriculture	140 49 <u>189</u>	107 79 <u>186</u>
Community Affairs	Legislative Admin. Local Government Highways	57 59 <u>116</u>	57 59 <u>116</u>
Resources and Conservation	Fish and Game Natural Resources	129 99 <u>228</u>	34 64 <u>98</u>
Budget and Program Planning	Appropriations Finance and Claims	159	70
State Government	State Administration	172	156



HJR 46

Although we are very interested in revisions which will better the efficiency of the legislative process, the League of Women Voters of Montana does not have a position which we feel deals with the legislative committee structure. However, we do support the new section of HJR 46, beginning on page 6.

As the transmittal date approached, we saw a number of occurrences which led us to believe that the public was being denied adequate access to the legislative process, and issues were being dealt with under less than ideal circumstances. The chaos came about for several reasons. The Legislature got off to a very slow start; the Legislative Council, after suffering administrative problems in 1978, was ill-prepared for the deluge of drafting requests, and there were an overwhelming number of bills, to name a few. Section 6-6.1 of HJR 46 is a start in dealing with these problems. The Legislative Council and the Legislature should get off to a better start, and we would hope, in turn, the public will fare better.

There is a need to change some of the procedures of the legislative process whether we remain in biennial sessions or go to annual sessions. We hope the changes will be made via the rules, by the legislators, and not by a discouraged public. HJR 46 is a beginning in answering this need. Again, we state our support for Section 6-6.1 of HJR 46.

Joy Bruck
League of Women Voters of Montana

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

OF THE SENATE

DATE:

3/16/79

The Secretary of the Senate in accordance with the wishes of the Rules Committee is hereby ordering the following clerical corrections to S.B. 74, reference bill which are as follows:

1. Title line 5.

Following : "TO"

Strike : "AMEND SECTION"

Insert : "AMENDING SECTIONS"

2. Title line 6.

Following : "2-15-1005"

Insert : "AND 2-18-103"

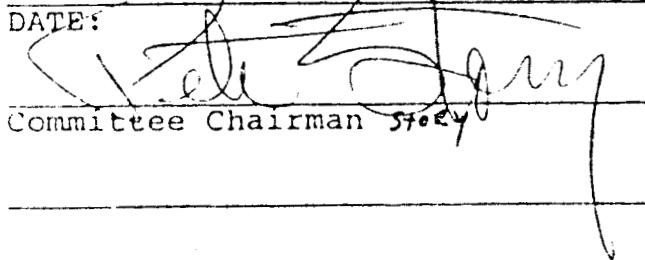
Following : "WHICH"

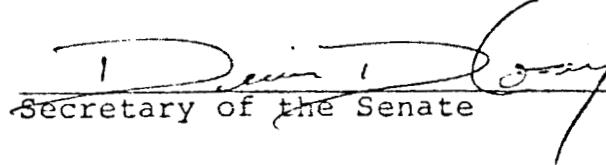
Strike : "RELATES"

Insert : "RELATE"

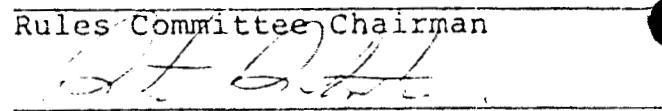

Principal Sponsor

DATE:


Committee Chairman


Secretary of the Senate

DATE:


Rules Committee Chairman