

HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE
47th Legislature

February 2, 1981

Chairman Fagg convened the Rules Committee at 11:41 a.m. in Room 343. All members were present with the exceptions of Rep. Lund who was excused and Rep. Moore, Rep. Spilker, Rep. Dussault arriving late and Rep. Menahan being absent.

There was a motion by Rep. Marks that no resolutions subject to the concurrence of the House be referred to the committee until the joint rules could be amended, and that the chairman of the House Rules Committee be asked to request same from the assembly under item of business number 6. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Rep. Marks to have the chairman of the Rules Committee, on today's order of business #6, move to allow HJR 16, 17, 18, 19 and 21 to be placed in the appropriate committee chosen by the Speaker of the House.

HB 429

Rep. Vincent presented the bill for an act to submit to the qualified electors of Montana an amendment to article V, Section 6, of the Montana Constitution to provide that the legislature shall meet in annual sessions for 60 legislative days in even-numbered years and 45 legislative days in odd-numbered years and to provide limitations on the business that may be conducted in odd-numbered years; and to provide an effective date.

Proponents were Joy Bruck who presented written testimony, see Attachment 1. There were no other proponents.

Opponents were Keith Anderson of the Montana Taxpayers Assn. and Mons Teigen of the Montana Stockgrowers Assn. and Cowbells, who spoke in opposition to the bill, see Attachments 2 and 3. They gathered various information and Mr. Anderson had taken a poll which showed that his organization was opposed to annual sessions as well as Mr. Teigen's two organizations.

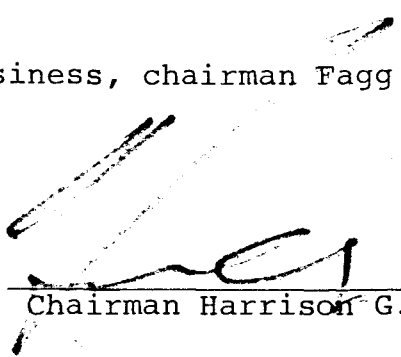
There were several questions. Rep. Marks questioned Rep. Vincent in regard to why he felt that the budget session required 45 days. Rep. Vincent said that he had talked with both the current chairman of appropriations and the previous chairman, and they both had said that they felt it would take about 40 days. Rep. Vincent felt that 45 could be changed to 40 if appropriate. Rep. Moore had a question regarding the regular session starting in 1983 and the 3 year gap, and that perhaps the budget sessions should fall on even numbered years. There was also the question which was asked of Joy Bruck

asking her if the Senate had a similar bill. She said yes, one which said there would be two 48 day sessions. Rep. Dussault asked Mr. Anderson who the membership he was representing consisted of., Mr. Anderson explained that they were regular people.

Rep. Vincent closed the discussion on HB 429.

At the request of Rep. Fagg, Larry Ward appeared to request a suspension of rules. The committee unanimously agreed that a suspension of rules should be made until the rules could be changed with the result being all resolutions will go through normal procedures. The chairman explained that Mr. Ward had not been late due to the lack of desire to get this legislation introduced but that he had run into many snags. The decision was made to suspend the rules to allow this legislation to be drafted.

There being no further business, chairman Fagg adjourned the meeting.



Chairman Harrison G. Fagg

WITNESS STATEMENT

Name Jay Busch Date 2-2-81
 Address 1601 Illinois Helena Support ? ☒
 Representing ~~Montana~~ LDV of Montana Oppose ? ☐
 Which Bill ? HB 429 Amend ? ☐

Comments:

The League wishes to ~~express~~ its support. We believe it is a far better alternative ~~to~~ to having more control of the executive branch activities than allowing a comm. to act on behalf of the entire legislature or to "legislate by mail".

The League feels strongly that citizens be given the opportunity to participate in the governmental process. We believe there are other alternatives include citizen participation while annual session is out.

In the questionnaire we sent out last year, one of the major concerns of the legislators responding was that unless they are directly involved, they tend to be left out of the process.

Again, for these reasons, and others we have expressed we support this bill.

Please leave prepared statement with the committee secretary.

NAME S. Keith Anderson BILL No. 429
ADDRESS Helena DATE 2/2/81
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT Mntax
SUPPORT _____ OPPOSE ✓ AMEND _____

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

Members of Mntax are opposed to
annual sessions by 83%. They feel that in
a rural state such as Mont. it is not necessary for the
legislature to meet yearly.

BILL No.

DATE _____

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

AMEND

Comments:

P-Present
A-Absent
E-Excused

RULES COMMITTEE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
47th Legislature

Date 2-2-81

Time 11:40 A.M.

FAGG	P						
MARKS	P						
MOORE	P/late						
SPILKER	P/late						
SIVERTSEN	P						
LUND	E						
VINCENT	P						
DUSSAULT	P/late						
KEMMIS	P						
MENAHAN	A						