

STATE ADMINISTRATION
APRIL 2, 1981
RM 436

The meeting of the House State Administration Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 2, 1981, with Chairman Jerry Feda presiding. All members were present except Representatives Azzara, Dussault and O'Connell who were absent.

Chairman Feda opened the meeting to a hearing on HJR 62.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 62-SPONSOR, Representative Williams, was unable to be present at the meeting so co-sponsor Representative Conroy introduced this resolution to the committee. This resolution requests a select committee on Indian Affairs be assigned to promote better understanding between the tribes and public agencies, to act as an available conduit for the Indian people to the Legislature, and to encourage tribal/state and tribal/local government cooperation. Representative Conroy said that during the last interim the study committee spent about \$8,459 but he does not think they will need to spend that much in the next study. He said the Cheyenne Indians are behind this 100%. He said there are around 4000 water rights problems on the reservation that they have filed and they need this cooperative working relationship with the state agencies in order to work these problems out.

PROPONENTS

ROD SAYEGUSA, Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board, stated they support this bill. He said the Indian tribes are an integral part of Montana and are even specifically mentioned in the State Constitution. He said that the tribes don't know where they stand on many political and economic issues under the new Reagan administration. There may be many social service cuts in the budget. They are also concerned about the water rights issues and the economic impact this will have on the tribes. They feel this interim study committee would be a good effort on behalf of the State.

MERLE LUCAS, DCA/INDIAN AFFAIRS, said that he participated in some of the public hearings the committee held during the last interim and he felt they were very beneficial to the tribes and also the committee gained insight into the problems that the tribes deal with in day to day life as well as government problems.

HJR 62 (cont.)

OPPONENTS

There were no opponents present.

QUESTIONS BY THE COMMITTEE

Spilker: Do you have an appropriations bill in for the funding of this?

Conroy: I think it will just be plugged into HB 500. That would be the easiest way to handle it.

Representative Conroy closed the hearing on HJR 62. He said that in the past, positive things came out of the interim study committee. It brought the tribes together as well as making a better understanding between the agencies and the tribes.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 63-SPONSOR, Representative Moore, was not present for the hearing, therefore, the co-sponsor, Representative Feda, introduced the bill to the committee. This resolution requested by the House State Administration Committee, requests an interim committee to study the current state procurement system and explore the benefits and liabilities of implementing a centralized procurement system for the State of Montana.

PROPONENTS

MORRIS BRUSETT, Department of Administration, said that when HB 663 was heard they appeared in opposition to the bill because they felt it was a somewhat radical change. They do think it should be studied if the legislature intends to implement something of this type. They would cooperate and assist in any way possible. He said that he would like to point out that they do now have centralized purchasing for supplies, equipment and services. He said that the intent of HB 663 was to include construction projects of highways, Fish & Game, Natural Resources and the land purchases of the Department of State Lands as well as professional services which are now exempt. Those were the main concerns and, he said, I do not think this resolution addresses these. He suggested that the committee may want to amend the resolution to address these areas more specifically. Also, HB 663 would have set up the three member board to

HJR 63 (cont.)

oversee the whole thing. He said that there have been studies of the present centralized purchasing system in the past two years.

OPPONENTS

There were none.

QUESTIONS BY THE COMMITTEE

Kropp: Didn't someone from the Department of Highways oppose the original bill HB 663?

Brusett: Yes, they objected to all contracting coming under a three member board.

Spilker: Possibly HB 663 could be specifically mentioned in the resolution.

Feda: I am sure that if this becomes an interim study all of the people who are concerned with this will be at the hearings and these things will be discussed. It could possibly be amended on the floor.

Representative Feda closed the hearing on HJR 63.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 62

DO PASS

Representative McBride moved a DO PASS on HJR 62. Question being called a vote was taken and carried unanimously with those present.

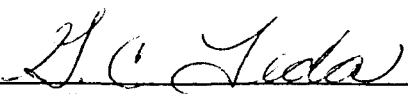
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 63

DO PASS

Representative Phillips moved that HJR 63 DO PASS. Question was called and a vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made to adjourn at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



G. C. "JERRY" FEDA, Chairman

