

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
January 16, 1981

The meeting was called to order by CHAIRMAN STOBIE at 8:00 a.m., in Room 431, with all members present but REP. ANDREA HEMSTAD.

Discussion of the the budget for the Department of Business Regulation was the first topic.

In reference to the Executive Budget (EXHIBIT B in the January 15th meeting) DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS REGULATION:

CENTRALIZED SERVICES PROGRAM

Discussion was conducted on the audit of this department and the funds that will allow for this audit. BOB ROBINSON explained what an audit actually is and its results. In reference to line item Personal Service, CAROLYN DOERING of the Executive Budget Office stated that four prople have been pulled out of this department and the Executive Budget will show 3 FTE's.

MOTION was made by REP. COZZENS that the LFA Budget for 1982 and 1983 be accepted. MOTION PASSED.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

BOB ROBINSON, Fiscal Analyst stated he would supply a detailed sheet showing all items in major categories. It is the understanding of this subcommittee that if this Division is allotted extra money for gas that they will spend it for nothing else and return it if they do not use it. On January 15th this Program asked for an additional \$5,000 for a truck not shown in this budget. Under line item EQUIPMENT, they asked for \$13,000 per year for the three ton, 5th wheel truck and \$17,000 for a tandem axle trailer but feel now that they need another \$5,000.

MOTION was made by REP. MANUEL to allow the \$5,000 for the truck. MOTION PASSED.

SENATOR BOYLAN suggested that a comparison of salaries between the various departments be based on the job and position, to see if they are sharing equal pay for equal work. The question of the importance of the training program that they have set up for the inspectors was discussed and CAROLYN DOERING stated that because of the constant change in the scales it was necessary to keep the inspector informed. That these inspectors also had authority to shut them down if they are found fraudulent and they had to know what they were doing.

MOTION was made by REP. COZZENS that the LFA recommendations for 1982 and 1983 for all line items except Supplies and Material and Communications be accepted and that line item Supplies and Materials go with the Executive Budget. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

FINANCIAL DIVISION

Discussion was held on the additional money asked for. It was also pointed out that the difference between the Legislative Budget and the Executive Budget is \$2,000 in 1982 and \$1,000 in 1983 in Contracted Services for early warning systems for troubled banks.

MOTION was made by SENATOR SMITH that they ignore the request of \$6,612 for 1982 and the \$7,505 for 1983 for the training of examiners. MOTION PASSED.

REP. COZZENS moved to accept the LFA on Personal Services and the Executive Budget on the balance of the line items. MOTION PASSED.

MILK CONTROL PROGRAM

A discussion was held regarding the duplication of the butterfat testing by Business Regulation and the Department of Livestock and what the bills before the House would do to control this.

SENATOR SMITH moved that this budget be tabled until pending legislation is decided. MOTION PASSED.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

It was recommended that the responsibility of the hearings when franchises are discontinued for auto dealers be transferred to the Department of Justice.

REP. MANUEL moved that the \$4,200 be transferred to the Justice Department. Discussion brought out that this total included some personal services of Dick Disney's and two secretaries and if their recommendation is accepted a motion is not necessary. MOTION WAS WITHDRAWN.

SENATOR STIMATZ elaborated on the value of the Consumer Protection Agency to the public, indicating that it is not being run properly to benefit the public. The total LFA request for this program for 1982 and 1983 is \$335,381.

SENATOR STIMATZ along with SENATOR SMITH suggested that this department's responsibilities be turned over to the Attorney General's office. Question regarding the investigator that checks on private postsecondary colleges that promote Montana students arose and it was the consensus of the group that this position was not an important one. This Department has an attorney that was taken out and put into Centralized Services.


REP. COZZENS moved that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and Senator Stimatz from this Subcommittee meet with Rep. Lory and Senator Dover of the Joint House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Claims Subcommittee on Legislative, Judicial and Administrative Agencies, and submit the idea of the transferring of this program; and in turn, meet with the Attorney General's office and bring the findings back to this committee. MOTION PASSED.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

MR. WILLIAM LANTRY of the Weights and Measurers Department addressed the Subcommittee in reference to the training sessions stating the importance of these meetings. The investigator must know about the new scales which is taught to them by the people from the factory at these meetings. The training also keeps the men from being lax in the field. So far these meetings have all been held in the state. The only employee that must be certified is their metrologist. He also stated that there is quite a turnover in this field.

SENATOR SMITH moved that the Executive Budget for 1982 and 1983 for Communications be accepted. MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.



CHRIS STOBIE, CHAIRMAN

NAME Wm LANTY Bill No. Re - Communications

ADDRESS _____ DATE 1-16-81

WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT BUSINESS REG. - DIV OF WA-4 MEMS

SUPPORT _____ OPPOSE _____ AMEND _____

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments: