

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE  
MONTANA STATE SENATE

January 8, 1981

The second meeting of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee met on the above date in room 108 of the state Capitol. The meeting was called to order at 4:18 p.m. by Chairman, Senator Hims1 for the purpose of hearing House Bill 1.

Senator Hims1 said before action was taken on the hearing he would like to point out a misconception that seemed to have arisen on this bill. There seemed to be a misunderstanding as to the use of this particular money, that it had been carried in the press that this bill would increase the pay of the legislators by giving them a \$5 per day increase in expenses, and this is not true--this bill simply provides the funding. He pointed out that to allow an increase would necessitate another bill being introduced to change the statute (5-2-301, since this is set by statute.

Representative Lund explained the bill which came from the House Appropriations, as the bill that was needed to run the legislature. It included various amounts for the following purposes: Salaries for the legislature and the attachees, benefits of social security, operating expenses, per diem, some contract expenses, voting machines, repairs, pencils, paper, telephones, some travel, copying machines, some mileage, expenses for the 1983 pre-caucus, such services for the legislature as the legislative council, fiscal analysts, public information center with phones (three toll free numbers), computer terminals, mail room, press room, publication of the journals after the session on session laws, and a lot of other incidentals.

Representative Lund pointed out that the \$5 per day expense money for the legislators would be totally tax deductible since the figure allowed goes to \$50 and the legislature would be well within the ball park. He said the legislators pay is \$39.50 per day and would not change unless the matrix changed. The \$5 per day was plugged into the bill and if the bill was passed he would put another bill into the hopper to take care of the statute change.

Questions by the committee included, would the legislators pay change if the comparative salary for prison guards changed, would the money be used for something else or reverted if the raise was not realized. Answers: Legislators pay would not change, it was a grade 8, step 2 and would remain so until that was changed since that is what determined the pay. Also Representative Lund said the money would be reverted and be used for something else.

Senator Hims1 asked if they could believe that this is the total amount for the legislature or would there be extra money needed. Representative Lund said they felt that this should cover the entire Legislature and that it should be the bottom line.

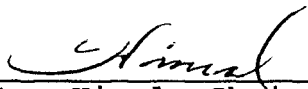
Discussion was held on when was the time to oppose the increase, now or when the next bill came in. Senator Hims1 explained that if they indended to vote against the increase in pay it should be on that bill, since this one was needed to run the legislature. Representative Lund assured the committee that this was not a line itemed amount and would be reverted and used for something else if the raise did not pass.

The hearing was closed and Senator Hims1 said he would entertain a motion on the bill.

MOTION by Senator Regan, second by Senator Dover that House Bill 1 be concurred in.

Voted and passed, roll call vote attached.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

  
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Senator Hims1, Chairman

ROLL CALL

FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE

47th LEGISLATIVE SESSION - - 1981 Date 1-8-81

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NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Senator Etchart	✓		
Senator Story	✓		
Senator Aklestad	✓		
Senator Nelson	✓		
Senator Smith	✓		
Senator Dover	✓		
Senator Johnson	✓		
Senator Keating	✓		
Senator Boylan	✓		
Senator Regan	✓		
Senator Thomas	✓		
Senator Stimatz	✓		
Senator Van Valkenburg	✓		
Senator Haffey	✓		
Senator Jacobson	✓		
Senator Himsl	✓		

# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

January 8

1981

MR. President

We, your committee on Finance and Claims

having had under consideration House

Bill No. 1

Respectfully report as follows: That

House

Bill No. 1

BE CONCURRED IN

DOUBT

