MINUTES OF THE MEETING SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE February 10, 1981

The meeting of the Local Government Committee was called to order at 1:00 p.m. in Room 405 on the above date.

ROLL CALL: All members were present with the exception of Senator Thomas.

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 343:

AN ACT REVISING THE LAW ON CREATION OF REFUSE DISPOSAL DISTRICTS.

Senator Aklestad, District 6 and sponsor of the bill, said in the past when you set up refuse disposal districts, the county commissioners had the authority to initiate the process. had to be a 51% protest to defeat it. This created animosity in It was not the commissioners' fault, it was the some counties. This bill creates a situation where people instigate the The people will form a petition and the petition will initiative. go to the county commissioners - so they still have authority. election will be held in conjunction with primary, general or school elections so it will not create extra costs. Any eligible voters in that district may vote. The board will be elected at the same time the district is designated. The people will have the say on who is on the board instead of the county commissioners appointing these people.

John Harwood, representing himself as a farmer in Toole County, spoke in support of this bill. (See attached Exhibit A.)

Larry E. Munson, also a farmer from Toole County, said he owns a share of an implement business and also owns rental property. He is in favor of this bill because it gives the power to the people where it should be. He said in his area they had a problem with this last year. The people that rented property from him had no voice in the matter but they do end up paying for it in increased rent. He would like the board of directors to be elected by the people. He urges a do pass on this bill. He would like to see a city and rural designation.

There were no further proponents of the bill appearing before the committee. Senator McCallum then called for opponents.

Bill Romine, representing the Montana Clerk and Recorders Association, spoke in opposition of the bill. He informed the committee of some problems with the bill found by Clerk and Recorder Joyce Lippert. (See attached Exhibit B.) He thinks we should consider an alternative proposal for the election procedure.

Pete Frazier, the Environmental Health Coordinator with the City-County Health Department in Great Falls and also the director of

Local Government Committee Minutes February 10, 1981 Page 2

the Cascade Solid Waste Disposal District, testified against Senate Bill No. 343. (See attached Exhibit C.)

Pat Trusler, Supervisor for Lake County Health and Sanitation, said he was representing the Lake County Commissioners, Lake County Refuse Disposal District and Lake County Clerk and Recorder along with the sanitation department. He spoke against the bill. (See attached Exhibit D.)

Alan Robertson, chief legal counsel to the Secretary of State, said the Secretary is concerned with the local election administrators always being able to carry out their duties. The amendments are good in this bill, he commends them.

Max Bauer, representing Browning Ferris Industries of Montana, Inc., said he has worked on 8 or 9 districts being formed in the state. All of them are in use at the present time and are very acceptable. There are a lot of current federal and state regulations that cover the same thing refuse districts are covering. This bill will set back the process 3 years or eliminate it completely. There would never be another district put up. It would be cumbersome and expensive. It would postpone refuse disposal services to the counties.

Dan Mizner, League of Cities and Towns, feels on page 9 "cities and towns" should not be deleted from Section 7-13-203. There needs to be an amendment that would clarify that the city council has the right to belong or not to belong as they choose. He suggested another amendment that if part of the city comes into the district, all of the city must come in. Some parts of the city could be inside a district and the rest of the city outside the district.

Senator Aklestad added, in closing, that he wanted to address some of the remarks just made. The property taxpayers have the authority to take up the petition. The taxpayer has to hold the election. As far as a 15-day procedure, he would be willing to extend it to 25 or 30 days. As far as precinct ballots, it would not be that expensive for printing. These areas would only be designated areas where the county commissioners designate within the county. He has an amendment that would take care of Dan Mizner's problem. People do care if they have a district. If they care, they will set one up. He believes people will start a district faster this way than the old way because it is up to the people. The new board will have the same authority as the old board - the same authority, just elected in a different manner. He doesn't believe the old law is working at all. There are problems all over the state. The new law simplifies the process. He is representing the people, not the system as the opponents of this bill are doing. He then read an amendment to Section 1. (See attached Exhibit E.)

Local Government Committee Minutes February 10, 1981 Page 3

Senator McCallum then called for questions from the committee.

Senator Conover asked Senator Aklestad what this will do to various counties with existing districts.

Senator Aklestad said this bill is not retroactive. Those in operation now will remain the same.

Senator Hammond asked if this is working well now, why do we have a situation where there are 6 hearings of protest in the eastern part of the state.

Pat Trusler said people are not educated as well as they should be. People should take the initiative to get involved.

Senator Hammond said he represents 15 small towns, 2 of those towns are threatened by law suits. This bill migh: satisfy the efforts by those people.

Pat Trusler said Lake County is one of a few counties that have a total solid waste district. They have an appointed board and they can devote more time to it. If they are elected with no compensation, special interest groups could gain power over the district.

Senator Hammond thinks we are talking about two different areas. We are talking about heavily populated areas in western Montana as compared to sparsley populated areas in eastern Montana. He thinks we have 2 different problems.

Mr. Trusler agreed it was totally the opposite in eastern Montana than in western Montana.

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 325:

AN ACT TO REVISE THE SALARY SCHEDULE OF A YOUTH COURT PROBATION OFFICER.

Senator Stephens, District No. 4 and sponsor of the bill, was requested by members of the Montana Probation Officers Association to introduce this bill. Three of the members will speak on the bill. The problem is, it has been tradition that youth court probation officers go to the legislature every two years to request a salary commensurate with their education and responsibilities. They are trying to eliminate that biennial journey to the legislature. The numbers in this bill are not necessarily sacred but they had to start somewhere. The figures are based on an analysis of the qualifications required, education and caseloads. There are many people that deal in the area of youth court probation. These people try to prevent these youths from going to Deer Lodge.

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Page 4

The salary they arrived at was not to be lower than a grade 19, step 1 or higher than a grade 20, step 13. This is a range from approximately \$25,000 to \$34,000. The deputy probation officers' compensation would be no lower than grade 16, step 1 and no higher than grade 18, step 13, a range between \$19,286 and \$30,173 per year. He feels the figures are realistic in keeping with today's inflation rate and their duties. Most of them are now being paid \$20,000 per year. This will have no fiscal impact on the state, just on the counties. Each county is different and has a different formula. The judge is allowed to make a determination of the salary schedule. Senator Stephens then introduced three chief probation officers, Jeremiah Johnson, Glen Hufstetler and Mike Redpath.

Glan Hufstetler, probation officer from Flathead County, said the edication requirements have been upgraded primarily due to the legislature. There are 64 probation officers in the state, most of them have their bachelors degree or their masters. people are putting in approximately 18 hours a week over 40 hours and receive no overtime or pay compensation. In the last 12 months, Mr. Hufstetler averaged 14.5 hours over and above 40 hours per week. Deputies are put upon more than that. Mr. Hufstetler said they are not complaining, this work requires dedication and concern but they are task oriented, they care about the kids and work on a close basis with them. Their success ratio is good. Flathead County they take to formal court less than 1%. Others are deferred and work out informally. Education is ongoing and upgrading. He appreciates the opportunities given by the legislature to go to management training classes. He encourages consideration of this bill. He then handed out three letters written by two of the other chiefs and himself. (See attached Exhibit F.)

Jeremiah Johnson, probation chief in Missoula County, addressed the issue of the pay matrix. They discovered just recently the matrix they started using was the 79-80 matrix. They are trying to devise a system where there would be approximately a 15% raise in the biennium. They arrived at grades 14-15 for deputies and grades 18-19 for chiefs to give them that percentage. They would like to be able to come up with a system that would take care of them about 10 years down the road so they do not have to request raises each biennium. Mr. Johnson receives \$35 per month from Mineral County, Sanders County pays him over \$200 per month. The salaries are broken down by the amount of time you work in each county. Some judicial districts have as many as 7 counties in them.

Mike Redpath, probation officer in Great Falls, said they are a small group with many responsibilities. They develop their own budgets, participate in public speaking engagements, deal with all agencies with services for juveniles, work with families, employment agencies and schools, plus their work with their individual caseloads. Their job is never ending. They are on call

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beyond a 40-hour work week. The new officers are of college caliber. He has been in the business for 5 years, graduated from college and has obtained his masters degree. There are a couple others he works with that are close to receiving their masters. Many are continually upgrading their education.

Senator McCallum then called for opponents of the bill.

Mike Stephen, Montana Association of Counties, said this system stems fully into the district court system which is a state system the county pays the bills for. They answer to judges and do not answer to the county as to their activities. He thinks looking into the future 10 years is too long as far as the matrix is concerned. Counties are losing taxable valuation and it remains to be seen whether counties will be able to provide present services, let alone give these salary increases.

Senator Stephens added, in closing, that he appreciates Mr. Stephen's concerns on behalf of the counties, they are shared by the proponents of this bill. The counties are hard pressed and are facing a bill that could cause them to lose tax revenues. The basic point is you have to look at the work being done. Men dedicate their lives to these problems with the youth. If we ask people to dedicate their lives, we need to compensate them properly. They don't say this is the right matrix. The committee might want to study this but they do need a reasonable increase and don't want to come to the legislature to beg for their income every two years. They deserve the committee's thoughtful consideration.

Senator McCallum then called for questions from the committee.

Senator Hammond asked if they serve 7 counties down to less than 1, is there mileage or perdiem as part of the salary.

Mr. Johnson said some districts furnish cars, others go on mileage.

Senator Van Valkenburg said there is a serious problem with putting county employees on the state matrix. Once we open up that matrix to county employees, every county employee is going to go for it. He realizes the situation is unique because the legislature sets the range of their pay. We also have a problem in this area in that youth court probation officers continue to be outside the correctional system. With this pay they would be tied with what the state adult probation officers are getting. That would create considerable problems. You ought to be state employees if you are on the state pay plan.

Glen Hufstetler realizes there is a problem with attaching to the state pay plan. They don't wish to cause a burden on the counties. County commissioners are in favor of something like this so they can accurately budget for the probation officer's salary. The way it is now, they have no way of knowing what to budget for the coming

Local Covernment Committee Minutes February 10, 1981 Page 6

year. They need something similar to the state matrix. This is not a sacred document, they are just asking to be put on a matrix system so they can stay at home so they don't have to go to the legislature all the time.

Senator Hammond asked if Mr. Hufstetler was on the merit system now.

Mr. Hufstetler said he works for the district court judges. They feel they need to be working on the judicial basis because of the flexibility. They need to be able to meet their own needs.

Senator Hammond asked who employs him.

Mr. Hufstetler said the judges hire them. The county pays them.

Senator Conover asked what the top pay is throughout the state for youth probation officers.

Mr. Johnson said \$20,000. He added they do not want to be attached under the state but do want to remain with the district judges.

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 328:

AN ACT TO REVISE THE PROVISIONS ON MUNICIPAL VACANCY IN OFFICE TO INCLUDE THE SAME GROUNDS APPLICABLE TO VACANCY IN STATE OFFICES.

Senator Van Valkenburg said Senator Thomas introduced this bill at Senator Van Valkenburg's request, that was why he was presenting the bill to the committee. They had a situation in the last biennium where a city council member suffered a heart attack and, as a result, was severely incapacitated for a great length of time. This individual was, for all practical purposes, not functioning mentally. He was placed in a hospital and then in a nursing home. He has since recovered to some degree and is serving on the council The question is whether his seat was vacant or not on the city council and if he was neglecting his duties. This bill puts in place what is existing law with respect to vacancies in state offices. This provides a clear definition as to whether an office is vacant or not if the person is determined to be seriously mentally ill. If this is a law that applies to all state officers, it should apply to municipal officers. This is no attempt to go after that individual but if it should happen again, he feels the law should be clear on this.

Dan Mizner of the League of Cities and Towns said this is not a problem just in Missoula but in other places in the state. This gives guidelines and the League supports it.

There were no further proponents and no opponents of this bill. Senator McCallum then called for questions from the committee.

Local Government Committee Minutes February 10, 1981 Page 7

Senator McCallum asked if in most offices, if you miss a certain number of meetings your seat is automatically vacated - or is that in the bylaws.

Mr. Mizner said you may be absent with the consent of the council. We need an ordinance in the cities now, we shouldn't wait until a situation like this occurs in each city.

Senator Hammond asked if there is a way to do this on the city level.

Mr. Mizner said if there are no guidelines in the law, some cities will not do anything about it until after a situation such as this occurs.

Senator O'Hara moved Senate Bill No. 328 DO PASS. This motion passed unanimously.

DISPOSITION OF SENATE BILL NO. 204: Senator Van Valkenburg moved that Senate Bill No. 204 be amended to provide that the age matter be reduced so it encompasses up to an individual's 35th birthday and that it be amended so we adopt the language recognizing age as a bona fide qualification for this particular line of work.

Senator McCallum said the lobbyists for the firemen agreed to these amendments.

Senator Van Valkenburg's motion passed with all but Senator Hammond in favor.

Senator Van Valkenburg moved that Senate Bill No. 204 DO PASS as amended. Senator Hammond was opposed, all others voted aye.

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25.

Chairman George McCallum

OLL CALL

LOCAL GOVE UNMENT COMMITTEE

47th LEGIS ATIVE SESSION - - 1981

Date 2/0/8/

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Senator George McCallum	$\overline{}$		
Senator Jesse O'Hara			
Senator H. W. Hammond	\checkmark		
Senator J. Donald Ochsner	\checkmark		
Senator Bill Thomas			
Senator Max Conover	\checkmark		
Senator Fred Van Valkenburg	$\sqrt{}$		

Each day attach to minutes.

DATE

FEBRUARY 10, 1981

COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BILL NO.

SB325

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FEBRUARY 10, 1981

COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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NAME: MAX G. Bouer or DATE: 2/10/51
ADDRESS: 7250 Deumshire Missoulo, Gos.
PHONE: 406 751-2506 543-3157
REPRESENTING WHOM? Browning Ferrier Industries of Mantene In.
APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: 5343
DO YOU: SUPPORT? AMEND? OPPOSE?
COMMENTS: Prosently: 1 is difficult enough to set up districts
without the additional burdens of this bill. Montana
is just getting started on programs which are very
banaficial to the rural areas concerning refuse districtions
This proposed bill would get these programs back in
time and be costly in the long rum. Refuse districts
are the cusuer to economical refuse sorvice at in the rural
areas and the only way to solve these areas refuse
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LEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

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ADDRESS: RM, 303 MISSOULA CO. COURTHOUSE
PHONE: 721-5700 EXT. 206
REPRESENTING WHOM? MONTANA PROBATION OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: 5.8.325
DO YOU: SUPPORT? AMEND? OPPOSE?
COMMENTS:

NAME: Mike Redpath DATE: 2-10-81
ADDRESS: Rm 101 CASCO Building Great Falls, Mt.
PHONE: 761-6700 ext 585
REPRESENTING WHOM? Montana Probation Officers Association
APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: 58 325
DO YOU: SUPPORT? AMEND? OP POSE?
COMMENTS:

Mr Chairman Member of Committee Exhibit A John Harwood I operate a farm in toole Ciran

I am here to reccome that SB 347 recieves a depass reces

Time studying

Thave spent considerable the laws t procedures for refuse district formations talked to hundreds of people in my home of many others from a cross the state. 1 have County 1 rave found their concerns about distoret fromation the same as mine This concern is that current 51% negative Protect Vote causes unfain hardships to the Community to the individuels within the proposed boundaries of the proposed district. to help you understand this I will briefly relate the situation in Toole County a district Procedures to create a district were begun twice in Toole Couny. In 1976 the citizens of Toole County were so outraged that the public hearing broke down to exchanges of angry comments. These meetings were not condustra for efficient county government or constructive Communication

The extent of the pressure on the commissiones can be illistrated from the Country cleaks minute; which indicate only a 40% protest was recieved 15.7. I the matter was dropped. although to the again in 1979 formulation proceeding startd. Most citizen of the current was revealed.

Most citizen of the current was revealed.

Very little meterial was available for the of the district altery & thermext altro all The howing had been held of the next step was the profest vote. & massive Considerable by a face people revealed the - a few concerned private citizen, mounted a - Campaign to inform the people of the country about the Exemplest voted district of the 5/2 protest vote. I believe the people of our county became County Commissioners who in turn have postponed proceeding for socially so further plans have been sommend I believe they are waiting on new ligislation such as 5 B 343 & HB 445

My conclusion is that a 50% protect wateralle of just on legal, When cultipens are not informed about follyte of the issue of Those who water in a letter for whatever resons are counted as a yes vote. The burden is placed on each individal.

Senator Ahlested Bill 343 will cause

the citizens to know the Facts before

they sign a petition to create a district

I by the time it gets to election they

will be better informed which in turn leads

to better government of clean state.

Village of Coutts ougers Della Rodgers hesle

ATTEST:

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PAND OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Vic Andersam

To create a Refuse Garbage District the Public had until May 11th, 1976 to write letters

May 14, 1976

REFUSE DISTRICT HEARING

GARBAGE

EL ZZABETH MUNSON CLERK & RECORDER Commissioner Tom Sherrard seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passed. Commissioner Robert

Tomshack called on the State Representative, Vic Anderson to speak. Vic stated that the

resolution was not intended to cover the County throughout at this time.

involved as the program was implemented. There were comments from the public. Erick made

People would be

resolution to create a Refuse Disposal District in Toole County Montana, due to approximately Commissionar John Nesbo moved that the Board of Toole County Commissioners not adopt a final

40% written protests received by the Clerk and Recorder against Refuse Disposal District.

Tomshack, John Nesbo and Tom Sherrard held the hearing. There were about 70 people present

from the State, Erick Armstrong, Rae Kalbfleisch, Attorney, and the Commissioners, protest. May 14, 1976 was set up as the day for the hearing on this proje ct.

for it in the Courtroom. Commissioner Robert A. Tomsheck called the meeting to order

MOTES LOCAL

Hospital Administrator Roger Strobel, called to discuss the remaining balance in their EMERGENCY BUDGET FOR TOOLE COUNTY HOSPITAL

We called Mr. pendergast in Helena and he referred us to Mr. Dooley. We discussed our

DISCUSSION ON OUR BUDGET

few comments.

budget matters with him and found that the law allows the transfer of funds within the

This keeps our budget for 1975-1976 in good order.

same fund.

and unanimously carried.

budget. It appears that the budget of the Toole County Hospital will be exceeded by about

\$43,000.00. After a discussion it WAS upon motion made by Commissioner

Seconded by Commissioner

Comments by Joyce Lippert, Clerk and Recorder - S.B. 343 - February 4, 1981

- Page 1 Lines 19-22. The requirement for petition signers to be a taxpayer has been, I believe, struck down on the federal level. You might check with the Secretary of State. Perhaps the term "property owner" would be more appropriate. To check petitions of property owners is a very difficult thing and there is always a chance of missing personal property owners unless there is a lien of record against the property.
- Page 1 Line 23-25 and
- Page 2 Lines 1-4. Representative Eudaily has prepared legislation regarding local government initiatives and ballot issues. The procedure is not presently in Title 13 Election Laws. For the sake of uniformity, a reference should be made to his H.B. 140 which is now in the Senate Local Government Committee. The sentence referring to county clerk should probably be changed to election administrator.
- Page 2 Line 12. County clerk should be changed to election administrator.
- Page 2 Line 15. The same applies as in line 12. If the requirement of land owners or property owners is kept for the definition of someone qualified to sign the petition, 15 days is not long enough to check the petitions. This is especially true if a district crosses precinct lines. I would think 20-30 days would be more realistic. If the requirement of an elector is a definition for someone to sign a petition, 15 days would be realistic.
- Page 2 Line 23. Same comment regarding taxpayers.
- Page 3 Lines 2-6. Same comment relating to taxpayers.
- Page 3 Line 9. The election administrator is the custodian of election records and should present the petition.
- Page 3 Section 5 (1). A reference should be made to 2-3-105 through 2-3-107 in addition to the newspaper requirement. See 13-1-108 for a suggested terminology. Posting isn't always effective if there aren't three <u>public</u> places. Fence posts would have to be used in some areas of this county.
- Page 5 Lines 6-10. There should be a 90 day time the commissioners must adopt the resolution before the election day. This gives time for the notice of close of registration and other requirements of Title 13.
- Page 6 Line 11-15. There should probably be a reference to 13-14-113 if the directors receive no pay to clarify the procedure for filing for office.

Page 8 - Section 19. - The directors should file with the election administrator the name of any person appointed for continuity of the records of the office.

Page 9 - Lines 20-25 and

Page 10 - Line 1. - There is no provision for the election administrators of the two counties to present a certificate to a single board or a defined board having authority for action on the petition.

Page 10 - Lines 6-17. - There should be more definition of the ratio of directors between counties. How would the election administrator know how to prepare a ballot for the number of directors in his county? Is it the intention of this legislation to have five directors in each county? This whole section is vague to me unless there is more definition in the existing law that I have not had time to research. If I read 13-10-201 correctly, the directors would have to file nominating petitions with the secretary of state if the district covers more than one county. He then would certify the ballot to the election administrators.

The Board of Lake County Commissioners, the Lake County Refuse Disposal District, the office of the Lake County Clerk and Recorder and the Lake County Health and Sanitation Department would like to go on record in strong opposition to Senate Bill 343. This legislation, as proposed, puts undue and unneccessary restrictions on local governments who are desirous to form a refuse disposal district to properly handle and dispose of solid waste generated within their jurisdiction.

Laws and Rigulations, governing the property handling and disposal of solid waste, have been dictated by past legislatures and now through S.B. 343, it would appear, that the mechanism for refuse disposal district formation which is, to date, the most equitable and efficient means of providing monies for operation and maintenance of districts, becomes so cumbersome and complicated that it becomes unlikely that districts will even be pursued. Since districts are the only feasible way to finance rural solid waste management systems, and if commissioners can't form refuse disposal district under provisions of proposed SB 343, do they have an argument against not complying with Solid Waste disposal regulations?

The present districting law has been working antisfactorly for several years. The question must be raised as to why is it necessary to revise legislation which has proven satisfactory in the past.

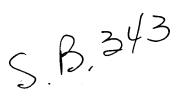
In these times when people are very skeptical about the growth of government a consciencious effort must be made to limit spending and be conservative with hiring practices. SB 343 requires considerable effort on the Clerk and Recorders of each and every county where districts are proposed and presently existing. The potential for increased government and thus public criticism, as a result of legislation such as this is very real.

SB 343 is very ambiguious inasmuch as the powers and duties of the board are not clearly stated. For example, being elected are the directors to have total control of the budget or do the county commissioners still have budgetary authority? Who handles the day to day operations of districts functions? Can the board of directors establish assessment fees and if so are they required to conduct a public hearing on said fee subsequently fee increases?

SB 343 has the potential for creating serious conflicts of interest. Since directors are not compensated for their duties who then is likely to run for a directorship. Obviously the potential exists for a special interest, who may not have the interest of the taxpayer in mind, to control the refuse district. This situation is certainly lessened when the county commissioners have appointment authority.

A final basic criticism of the bill deals with district boundaries themselves. Presentegislation allows incorporated municipalities the option to join the proposed district. This legislation takes this explicit right away and uses unclear language such as "may include cities and towns'."

Lake County local government officials urge that this legislation be killed. It is arbitrary, ambiguous and most of all totally unnecessary. This on top of the fact the implementation of the legislation provides increased time and monetary demands on county government.



TESTIMONY AGAINST SB 343

Mr. Chairman, Committee members, my name is Pete Frazier. I am the Environmental Health Coordinator with the City-County Health Department in Great Falls. I also serve as Director of the Cascade County Solid Waste Disposal District. I appreciate the opportunity to testify on SB 343.

When the existing refuse disposal districts law was passed in the mid 1960's, its purpose was to provide a funding mechanism by which counties could provide the necessary solid waste disposal services in order to comply with State and Federal laws and rules governing solid waste disposal. Since that time, the Federal and State Solid Waste Disposal Rules and Regulations have become even more stringent. County Commissioners and local health departments and other local government agencies are responsible for meeting these stringent re-Small communities, both incorporated and unincorporated, often with only a few hundred residents or less, are required to meet the same stringent State Solid Waste Disposal Regulations as are the largest communities of thousands of people. Under the existing Refuse Disposal District Law, local government officials could develop a refuse district, in order to obtain the necessary funds to meet the stringent State Solid Waste Disposal Laws. However, before such a district can be created, the taxpayers within the proposed boundaries of the district are given an opportunity to be heard prior to the district's creation. Each resident within the boundaries of a proposed district must be sent by 1st class mail a copy of the County Commissioner' Notice of Passage of Resolution of intention to creat such a district.

This Notice must include the boundaries, estimated costs, brief discription of district activities and the time and place where a Public Hearing on the creation of such a district will be held. In addition, the Notice must be published for ten (10) consecutive days in a daily newspaper nearest the proposed district or in two (2) issues of a weekly newspaper and posted in three (3) public places. Also, after the first date of publication thirty (30) days must be provided for written If, over 50% of the residents in the proposed district protest the creation of the district, no district can be created. the current law governing the creation of refuse disposal districts, local government officials, such as County Commissioners and Health Departments, who are responsible for conforming to the State's stiff Solid Waste Disposal Laws, can initiate the creation of such a district when they see that they are in violation. On the other hand, existing refuse disposal district law ALSO provides more than adequate public involvement and notification so that the affected taxpayer has an opportunity to protest creation of a refuse disposal district.

However, SB 343 will make it almost impossible to creat any future districts for several reasons. First, unless the local government officials who are responsible for complying with the State Solid Waste Disposal rules and regulations reside within the boundaries of a proposed district, they can not initiate the creation of a district, since SB 343 requires that only persons qualified to sign a petition can circulate them. This means, in order to begin to comply with the State Solid Waste Laws local officials must find residents residing within the proposed area for a district who will be willing to circulate petitions requesting the creation of a district.

Since many taxpayers don't care if there communities comply with the solid waste laws, since it is not their responsibility to comply, it will be extremely difficult to find people willing to circulate such petitions. In addition, it will be virtually impossible to obtain a petition signed by 25% of the qualified electors residing within the boundaries of a proposed district, since most people don't care if the state law is complied with, as long as they can get rid of their garbage. In essence, the legislature will make it virtually impossible to create a refuse disposal district, should SB 343 be passed, yet the stringent solid waste laws that have been adopted by past legislatures will still be on the books, and local governments will still be required to comply with these laws.

In this day and age, when the public is demanding less government and reduced bureaucracy, SB 343 is providing for just the opposite approach. By requiring petitions, a public hearing, and an election for the creation of a refuse disposal district, this bill is adding a tremendous amount of cost and work to the local government when it attempts to provide solid waste disposal services that are dictated by State Law.

The County Clerk and Recorder will be required to certify each name on the petition to certify that the signature is a qualified elector within the boundaries of the proposed district. In addition there will be the added cost of including the creation of the district on the ballot during the next primary, general or school election.

Cascade County has had a refuse disposal district in operation for over eight years that has been operating smoothly since its adoption. No complaints or problems have occurred with regard to our District's administrative and organizational structure under a Board of Directors appointed by the County Commissioners. If SB 343 is adopted, districts with active organized Boards containing knowledgeable members, will have to abolish their existing Boards, in order to go through the unnecessary time and expense of holding a special election to elect new Each year, thereafter, the Counties will have to hold a special election to elect one Board member. This appears to be an unnecessary burden and expense to place on the Counties, since prior to appointing new Board members, the County Commissioners announce the need for Board designees and allow for public input in their selection. The current refuse Districts Act also allows that in Counties where full time City-County Health Departments exist the City-County Board of Health may be designated as the District Board of Directors. This procedure makes sense, since solid waste disposal is a public health related matter. In addition it reduces the number of boards necessary within local government, reduces administrative costs, and allows for sharing of equipment and manpower. All of these items are beneficial to the taxpayer through reduced costs. Should this bill be passed, City-County Boards of Health will no longer be allowed to act as Refuse District Boards, thus eliminating all of these benefits to the taxpayers.

In addition, the requirement for an elected Board of Directors, under SB 343, undoubtedly will creat some conflicts between the elected Board and the County Commissioners. Under the existing Refuse Districts Law, the appointed Board of Directors sets a fee for service, with approval of the County Commissioners. This procedure has worked well, since the appointed Board of Directors works concurrently with the County Commissioners. However, an elected Board of Directors will be somewhat autonomous from the County Commissioners. The Commissioners will have no control over the elected Board of Directors and their actions, yet the County Commissioners will still be required to approve the established fees for service.

The current legislation allowing for creation of refuse disposal districts is much less costly and time consuming, yet provides more than adequate public notification and input opportunities. The existing Refuse Districts Law has worked extremely well over the past ten years. To change it will be a step backward. I, therefore, urge this committee to kill SB 343.

Should you have any questions, I will be happy to answer them. Thank you.

Exhibit P

LAKE COUNTY, MONTANA

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DON CORRIGAN
Polson

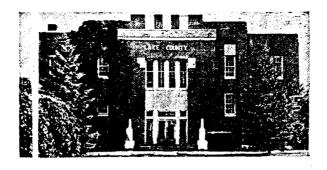
Harold Fitzner
St. Ignatius

WILSON A. BURLEY
Ronan

TREASURER

MARJORIE D. KNAUS

CLERK AND RECORDER
ETHEL M. HARDING



ASSESSOR WILL TIDDY

SHERIFF AND CORONER
GLENN FRAME

CLERK OF COURT

Katherine Pedersen superintendent of schools Glennadene Ferrell

COUNTY ATTORNEY
RICHARD P. HEINZ
COUNTY SURVEYOR

POLSON, MONTANA 59860

February 9, 1981

The Board of Lake County Commissioners, the Lake County Refuse Disposal District, the office of the Lake County Clerk and Recorder and the Lake County Health and Sanitation Department would like to go on record in strong opposition to Senate Bill 343. This legislation, as proposed, puts undue and unnecessary restrictions on local government who are desirous to form a refuse disposal district to properly handle and dispose of solid waste generated within their jurisdiction.

Laws and Regulations, governing the property handling and disposal of solid waste, have been dictated by past legislatures and now through S.B. 343, it would appear, that the mechanism for refuse disposal distriction formation which is, to date, the most equitable and efficient means of providing monies for operation and maintenance of districts, becomes so cumbersome and compliacted that it is unlikely that districts will even be pursued. Since districts are the only feasible way to finance rural solid waste management systems, and if commissioners can't form refuse disposal districts under provisions of proposed S.B. 343. do they have an argument against not complying with Solid Waste disposal regulations?

The present districting law has been working satisfactorly for several years. The question must be raised as to why is it necessary to revise legislation which has proven satisfactory in the past.

In these times when people are very skeptical about the growth of government a consciencious effort must be made to limit spending and be conservative with hiring practices. S.B.343 requires considerable effort on the Clerk and Recorders of each and every county where districts are proposed and presently existing. The potential for increased government and thus public criticism, as a result of legislation such as this, is very real.

- S.B. 343 is very ambiguious inasmuch as the powers and duties of the board are not clearly stated. For example, being elected, are the directors to have total control of the budget or do the county commissioners still have budgetary authority? Who handles the day to day operations of districts functions? Can the board of directors establish assessment fees and if so are they required to conduct a public hearing on said fee and subsequent fee increases?
- S.B. 343 has the potential for creating serious conflicts of interest. Since directors are not compensated for their duties who then is likely to run for a directorship. Obviously the potential exists for a special interest, who may not have the interest of the taxpayer in mind, to control the refuse district. This situation is certainly lessened when the county commissioners have appointment authority.

A final basic critizism of the bill deals with district boundaries themselves. Present legislation allows incorporated municipalities the option to join the proposed district. S.B. 343 takes this explicit right away and uses unclear language such as "may include cities and towns".

Lake County local government officials urge that this legislation be killed. It is arbitrary, ambiguous and most of all totally unnecessary. This on top of the fact that implementaion of the legislation provides increased time and monetary demands on county government.

> Don Corrigan - Chairman Lake County Commissioners

> Lake County Refuse Disposal

W. A. Burley - Member Lake County Commissioners

Lake County Commissioners

Ethel Harding Lake County Clerk and Recorder

Paddy R./Trusler - Supervisor Lake County Health & Sanitation

PRT/vhd

ExhibitE

February 12, 1981

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SB 343

1. Page 1, lines 16 through 22.

Following: "district."

Strike: the remainder of line 16 through line 22

Insert: "A proposed district will be comprised of 1 or more existing voting precincts that can cross county lines with each precinct having to have not less than 25% of its taxpayers signing a petition before it would be eligible to be included within the boundaries of a proposed refuge disposal district. The consent of the governing body of an incorporated city or town must be obtained to be included in a district."

Youth Court Services

 $\underline{M} \underline{E} \underline{M} \underline{O}$

J. M. SALANSKY ROBERT C. SYKES Youth Court Judges Eleventh Judicial District
Box 839 - Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 755-5300

R. GLEN HUFSTETLER Chief Probation Officer

> DEPUTIES: Kevin J. Burham Noel Kirack Elisabeth A. Moothart

January 19, 1981

TO ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF YOUTH COURT SERVICES:

In discussing our upcoming legislation with Senator Stan Stephens, he expressed a concern regarding us being placed on the state plan. We assured him that we did not specifically want to be on the state pay plan but one similar to it. His concern was that we would be compared to state probation and parole. I made every effort to assure him that our job description does not in any way match their's, that our responsibilities were entirely different, and while we were in no way putting down state probation and parole, our duties and responsibilities were indeed different.

We, at this time, feel a need to recommend to Youth Court workers throughout the state that in discussing this legislation with your legislator, judges, and all concerned about this particular piece of legislation, you do all within your power to clarify our job description and responsibilities. I would recommend if you have not done so, that you make every effort to present an accurate image of the Youth Court system and our duties and responsibilities and would suggest to you that while we are fairly well known throughout the state as Juvenile Probation Officers, we change that image to Youth Court Services, with probation being one of the many services we offer the community. Until that image is understood, I feel we are going to have difficulty in maintaining an adequate and meaningful salary base for our people.

The approach we are looking at in this year's legislation would be one of Youth Court workers, counselors, therapists, foster home coordinators, probation officers and any other services that the court may provide.

If you have any input or can do anything to further this philosophy, please don't hesitate to contact me either by phone or by letter.

Sincerely,

GLEN HUFSTETLER

Chief Probation Officer

Jan Gouth Court Services

J. M. SALANSKY ROBERT C. SYKES Youth Court Judges Eleventh Judicial District
Box 839 - Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 755-5300

R. GLEN HUFSTETLER Chief Probation Office

DEPUTIES:
Kevin J. Burham
Noel Kirack
Elisabeth A. Moothart

January 20, 1981

Senator Stan Stephens Montana State Legislature State Capitol Helena, Montana 59601 COPY

Dear Senator Stephens:

I would, at this time, like to thank you for the time allotted me on the 9th of January to discuss our upcoming bill. You indicated an interest in some relevant data pertaining to our salaries. As you are aware, we are currently under a mandated ceiling in that Chief Probation Officers are to be paid no more than \$20,000 per year. Most of the chiefs in the larger areas are and have been receiving that amount since the last legislature.

It would appear that our problems largely stem from a lack of understanding and probably poor communication on our part. Most of the more populated areas and some of the smaller communities have taken positive steps to insure the much needed change in our image. We are, by many, compared to adult probation and parole and juvenile aftercare when, in fact, our positions have very little resemblance. Missoula, Billings, Great Falls, Kalispell, Bozeman, Lewistown and Miles City, as well as other Judicial Districts, have changed the name to more accurately describe the job and its particulars. For example, our office offers individual and private counseling, group therapy, family counseling, as well as supervising those youths placed on informal or formal probation prior to being committed to an institution. We are also heavily involved in a foster home program. In our district our foster home program is larger than Welfare's program for youths in their teens. We currently have approximately 28 homes and approximately 20 youths involved in foster care placements. This necessitates our doing a unique form of counseling to unite these youths with their parents.

Approximately 40% of our work has been given to preventative programs, such as volunteer walk-ins by both parent and child, where amicable solutions are discovered and specific programs designed to accomodate the needs of the parties in question. Approximately one percent or less of those cases handled in our office end up in formal court.

Because of the educational requirements and the insistence of District Court Judges that our educational training be an on-going thing, our officers are required each year to attend at least one training session or workshop to improve their therapeutic skills, as well as their ability to deal with delinquent and disturbed youth.

In discussing our pay status with other court workers in other areas, we find our responsibilities exceed theirs in that they tend to be more specialized with intake, aftercare, etc., and those that have similar responsibilities to our own earn a great deal more money.

A breakdown of educational requirements of Youth Court workers in the State of Montana is as follows:

Those with a GED - None.

Those with a High School diploma and one to three years of college - 12%.

Those with a Bachelor's Degree - 76%.

Those with a Master's Degree - 12%.

There are currently 17 Youth Court workers working on their Master's, which would increase those holding a Master's Degree to almost 40%. Special schools attended are too numerous to mention.

Youth Court workers with less than one year of employment - 12%. Youth Court workers with 5.3 years mean experience - 88%.

Age distribution ranges from 23 to 65 years. 36.5 years is the mean for males and 27.3% is the mean for females. 14% of the Youth Court workers in the state are female and 86% are male.

Youth Court workers work approximately 18 extra hours per week. 96% of the Youth Court workers are on call - 4% not on call.

Sincerely,

R. GLEN HUFSTETLER

Chief Probation Officer

RGH/gw

Exhibit F2)

Youth Probation Office P.O. Box 326 Glasgow, MT 59230

February 2, 1981

Mr. Glen Hufstetler Chief Probation Officer P.O. Box 839 Kalispell, MT 59901

Dear Glen:

In response to your letter of January 20, 1981, regarding probation officers' salaries, I would like to add a few of my own thoughts.

Youth Probation has certainly come a long way in the State of Montana from the branch of law enforcement to what it is today - an extension of the judicial branch with high educational standards requiring the mastering of many disciplines in order to perform the duty currently required by law in dealing with youthful offenders.

The Probation Officer Association has taken it upon itself to sponsor on-going education and training for its members in order to continually upgrade its ranks in order to provide the best service possible for our clients.

The Youth Court Act is a complex law dealing with youthful offenders and as such requires the probation officer to function expertly in numerous areas such as crime prevention, preservation of the family unit, supervision, conducting preliminary investigations, conducting social studies, making recommendations to the Court - the list goes on and on. The conclusion drawn is that the probation officer's job is unique unto itself and totally different from that of adult probation and parole and juvenile aftercare.

As you are aware, probation officers' salaries are set by the legislature, the last being the 1978 legislature. One of the problems with the probation officer's salary is that it has never been set up in matrix form which would provide for yearly raises as with other branches of government. I am not suggesting that we join the state payroll plan but implement our own matrix giving probation officers yearly raises. Ideally, consideration should be given to chief probation officers by length of service and

Mr. Glen Hufstetler February 2, 1981 Page 2

educational achievement. Further the minimal educational requirements for the hiring of a new chief probation officer should be that he have a Master's Degree in the Social Sciences. This would not affect anyone currently employed as chief probation officer but would add to the already high standard of education and training which the probation officers have attained the last five years. In order to maintain and bring added professionalism to the Court, it is necessary that these individuals be adequately commensurated. For those reasons it is appropriate that a new pay schedule be enacted at this time.

Various legislators have often remarked to members of our Association that they are tired of the Probation Association's continual lobbying efforts with regard to salary increases and that the Association should draw up a pay matrix for legislators to consider. We agree. A plan has been proposed and we strongly urge that the legislature give this matter strong consideration. The matrix would give salary increases on an annual basis as well as probation officers to spend their time and energy in other, far more important matters.

We as probation officers suffer with the rising inflation and cost of living along with everyone else. We do not propose anything outlandish nor a get-rich-quick scheme. We would, however, like to at least work toward attempting to keep up with the escalating cost of living and inflation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at any time.

I will forward this letter to our area legislators and to the chairman of the committee in which our bill will be sent to. If you have any other comments or suggestions, please let me know.

Very truly yours,

George G. Melikian

Chief Probation Officer

GGM/js

Exhibit F(3)

Youth Court Probation

L. C. GULBRANDSON JUDGE

CRAIG J. ANDERSON CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER Seventh Judicial District

COURTHOUSE -- BOX 811
GLENDIVE, MONTANA 59330

February 3, 1981

DAWS: N, RICHLAND, WIBAUX AND McCONE COUNTIES (406) 365-4675

R. Glen Hufstetler Chief Probation Officer P.O. Box 839 Kalispell, MT 59901

Re: SB 325

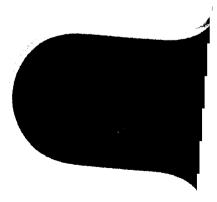
Dear Glen:

Enclosed is a copy of letters sent to all Senators on the Local Government Committee regarding SB 325. Your memo of Jan. 19, 1981 was helpful in preparing those letters.

Thank you.

Encl. 4 /

Sincerely,
Craig J. Anderson



Youth Court Probation Seventh Judicial District

C. GULBRANDSON JUDGE

RAIG J. ANDERSON
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER

COURTHOUSE - BOX 811
GLENDIVE, MONTANA 59330

DAWSON, RICHLAND, WIBAUX AND McCONE COUNTIES

(406) 365-4675

February 3, 1981

The Honorable George McCallin, Chairman Local Government Committee State Senate Capitol Station Helena, MT 59501

Re: SB 325 "Regising the Salary Schedule of Youth Court Probation Officers"

Dear Senator McCallin:

I am writing in support of SB 325 regarding the revision of the salary schedule for Youth Court Probation Officers, which is scheduled for a hearing in the Local Government Committee. Currently, salaries of Chief Probation Officers are mandated not to exceed \$20,000 per year as established by the last legislature. SB 325 is an attempt to establish a pay plan for Youth Court workers which yould alleviate the legislature from having to change Youth Court salaries every few years.

Youth Court workers job descriptions are unique to the communities they serve and are not easily compared to the other workers in the criminal justice system. At the present time, we, in this Judicial District offer services that include individual and family counseling, placement of youth in foster care, intake, detention processing, probation services, formal court, restitution programs and community service work. Additionally, we are on 24 hour call and available for crisis intervention. Our work hours are not limited to a 40 hour work week as we continually strive to identify and meet the needs of youth and families in the communities we serve.

I urge your careful consideration and favorable support for SB 325. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

(March 1)

Craig J. Anderson

Chief Probation Officer



TO:

THE MONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE 47TH LEGISLATURE, COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT: GEORGE MC CALLUM, CHAIRMAN

FROM:

LORRAINE P. MOLITOR, MADISON COUNTY RECORDER AND PRESIDENT OF THE

THE MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDERS.

RE:

SENATE BILL 343

Gentlemen:

Please enter the following testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 343.

This is a cumbersome bill bringing back material that has been found invalid by the Attorney General, such as tax payer qualification for voters. Since tax payer status is no longer a requirement for voting Election Administrators no longer keep such information in their records. It would be a very time consuming and costly process to reinstate such designation for voters.

In many cases the Clerk and Recorder is the election administrator, Such duties as processing of petitions is a duty that must be taken in stride with the many other priority duties involved. A mandatory 15 days as a time limit for checking signatures and certification of petitions will be an added burden for Clerk and recorders. There is a limit to the work load that an office can handle and in this economic period, we should be looking for ways to cut costs. not ways to increase them.

This bill would require some revision of existing law and it is my opinion that it should not be not be passed at this time.

Respectfully submitted

Lorraine P. Molitor, Madison County Recorder

Election Administrator and President MACR

1. Title, line 5.
Following: "To"
Strike: "35"

Tinsert: "35"

Following: "firefighter.

Following: "firefighter.

Insert: occupational qualification for the position of firefighter because of the regions physical demands if the firefighting profession and the expectation of many years of emergency service.

3. Face 1, len 12.
Following: "than"
Shile : "35"

Insert: "35"

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

February 10

AR PRESIDENT	
i	
We, your committee on LOCAL GOV :RNMENT	
aving had under consideration SENATE	Bill No. 204

Respectfully report as follows: That SENATE Bill No. 204 be amended as follows:

1. Title, line 5. Following: "TO" Strike: "35" Insert: "34"

2. Page 1, line 10.
Following: "firefighters."

Insert: "The state of Montana determines that age is a valid, bona fide occupational qualification for the position of firefighter because of the rigorous physical demands of the firefighting profession and the expectation of many years of emergency service. "

3. Page 1, line 12.
Following: "than" Strike: "35" Insert: "34"

and, as so amended, DO PASS

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

	February 16	19 81
PRESIDENT		
We, your committee on LOCAL GOVERNMENT		
naving had under consideration		. він _{No.} 328
Respectfully report as follows: That SEIATE		Bill No328

DO PASS

J.G.

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