

MINUTES OF MEETING
SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES
March 2, 1981

The fifteenth meeting of the Natural Resources Committee was called to order by Senator Harold Dover, Chairman, at 1:00 P.M., on the above date in Room 405 of the State Capitol Building.

ROLL CALL: All members were present with the exception of Senator Keating and Senator Manning.

CONSIDERATION OF HB 16:

AN ACT TO AMEND THE GOVERNOR'S ENERGY SUPPLY EMERGENCY
POWERS TO PROVIDE FOR REGULAR MONITORING OF ENERGY
SUPPLIES AND DEMAND; TO REQUIRE SUBMISSION OF REPORTS
ON PETROLEUM SUPPLIES AND CONSUMPTION; TO PROVIDE FOR
CONFIDENTIALITY OF CERTAIN INFORMATION SUBMITTED

Representative Quilici, District #84, introduced this bill at the request of the study committee on energy forecasting. This is not a forecasting bill, it is, if anything, a monitoring bill. This bill allows the state to gather information on energy supply and demand on a regular basis from the energy industry. There are some problems with the original bill as presented. The original bill included information from petroleum jobbers. The bill was reviewed in subcommittee and as a result the petroleum jobbers were amended out of the bill.

Chairman Dover asked for proponents to this bill.

John Braunbech, Montana Chapter of Intermountain Oil Marketers Association, would like the committee to know that long hours were spent amending HB 16 with relation to jobbers and as it is now written we support HB 16.

Chairman Dover asked for opponents to this bill. There were none present. Chairman Dover asked for questions from the committee.

Senator O'Hara asked Representative Quilici if we would need two additional FTE employees.

Representative Quilici said after we took jobbers out that fiscal note was not accurate. They feel they might need one additional FTE. That is the latest figure.

Senator Elliott said we have two fiscal notes, one dated January 8th and one dated January 28th, which went from 5 FTE's to 2 FTE's. The two FTE's is from the revised fiscal note. Is 2 FTE's correct?

Representative Quilici said that may be so. The appropriations committee will evaluate the necessity of FTE's and how many.

CONSIDERATION OF HB 90:

AN ACT TO AMEND THE GOVERNOR'S ENERGY EMERGENCY
SUPPLY POWERS TO EXTEND AN ENERGY EMERGENCY
CONDITION TO 60 DAYS BEFORE AUTOMATIC TERMINATION
WITHOUT LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL

Representative Quilici, District #84, introduced HB 90. This bill increases from 14 to 60 days the time a declared energy emergency can last without calling a special session of the legislature. Fourteen days is simply not enough time to evaluate the effectiveness of measures implemented to mitigate a shortage during an energy emergency.

There were no proponents or opponents at the hearing who wished to testify.

Chairman Dover asked for questions from the committee.

Senator Brown asked Representative Quilici if polling the legislature had been discussed by his committee as an alternative. The Senators and Representatives could take care of this at home as opposed to calling a special session.

Representative Quilici said this did not come up at the committee hearing but it sounds like a good idea rather than going into special session. The Governor has to consult with his Legislative Energy Policy Committee before he can declare an energy emergency alert.

Chairman Dover asked Representative Quilici if he would be adverse to amending that in.

Representative Quilici said that is a good point and he would not be adverse to that.

Senator Dover said 60 days is a long time. An emergency situation could develop pretty fast.

Representative Quilici said 60 days is the maximum. If the Governor and Energy Policy Committee see the situation is critical, a special session can be called prior to the 60 days.

CONSIDERATION OF HB 398:

AN ACT TO GENERALLY REVISE THE ALTERNATIVE ENERGY
GRANT PROGRAM

Representative Quilici, District #84, introduced this bill. During the interim Representative Quilici had reviewed various energy grants for the Department of Natural Resources and found that there was no checking being done by the Department of Natural Resources to see how effective these grants were. That is the purpose of this bill. It will give the legislature some oversight into the grant program.

There were no proponents or opponents to this bill.

Chairman Dover asked for questions from the committee.

Senator Etchart asked if this bill will provide for getting information out to the people who can use it.

Representative Quilici said the Department of Natural Resources will make a periodic report to the Environmental Quality Council. The Environmental Quality Council will evaluate these projects and if the information is not getting out to the public, they can ask the Department of Natural Resources to distribute the information to the public.

Senator Brown asked if the Department of Natural Resources was satisfied with this bill.

William Gosnell, Department of Natural Resources, said he had worked with Representative Quilici to amend the original bill and concurs with the amended HB 398. Previous problems with this program resulted from a staff shortage which has been corrected.

Senator Van Valkenburg said our committee previously passed SB 141 that deals with loans out of this program. We should have some oversight over these loans in addition to grants.

Representative Quilici concurs in that. If SB 141 passes through the House then loans should be included in this bill.

DISPOSITION OF HB 90: Senator Brown made a motion that Katherine Orr, Legislative Council, work on an amendment to poll the legislature.

Senator Dover asked who the members of the Legislative Energy Policy Committee were.

William Gosnell said the majority and minority leaders of each house and they each appoint one member.

Senator Etchart asked if in Senator Brown's motion he was going to consider changing the 60 consecutive days.

Senator Brown said no.

Senator Ryan does not like the polling idea. You do not have input with other legislators.

Senator Brown agrees for the most part. Maybe we should say when it is a unanimous vote of the Legislative Energy Policy Committee.

Senator Etchart agrees with Senator Ryan and with Senator Brown's suggestion for a unanimous vote of the committee.

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Senator Brown suggested the committee think about the amendments suggested until our next meeting. He withdrew his motion.

Senators Hafferman, Brown, Ryan and Van Valkenburg left the meeting for a Democratic caucus.

Senator Dover said 60 days seems like a long time.

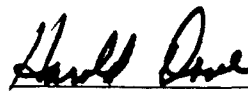
Senator Elliott said 14 days may be too short and he is in favor of amending the bill to 30 days.

William Gosnell said the report required by HB 16 is due 20 days after the close of the month. Because of the reporting situation 45 days would be a logical time frame for the Department of Natural Resources.

Senator Elliott said when the farmers need it they can't wait 45 days. The previous problem was not a shortage but a distribution problem.

Chairman Dover said we would close the meeting since some members of the committee had to leave.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 1:35 P.M.



HAROLD DOVER, Chairman

ROLL CALL

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

47th LEGISLATIVE SESSION - - 1981

Date 3/2/81

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Harold Dover, Chairman	✓		
Mark Etchart, Vice Chairman	✓		
Thomas Keating		✓	
Roger Elliott	✓		
Larry Tveit	✓		
Jesse O'Hara	✓		
John Manley	✓		
William Hafferman	✓		
Steve Brown	✓		
Dave Manning		✓	
Patrick Ryan	✓		
Fred Van Valkenburg	✓		

Each day attach to minutes.

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Natural Resources

VISITORS' REGISTER

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(Please leave prepared statement with Secretary)