

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
MARCH 18, 1981

The meeting of the Local Government Committee was called to order by Chairman George McCallum on the above date in Room 405 at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Senators Thomas and Van Valkenburg were excused, all other members were present with Senator Conover coming in late due to another meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL 558:

AN ACT TO REVISE THE COMPENSATION PROVISIONS
RELATING TO DEPUTY SHERIFFS AND UNDERSHERIFFS.

Representative Brown, District 83, said SB375 is included in this House bill. Under current state law deputies cannot make more than 90% of the sheriff's pay, including overtime. The result is deputies often work overtime for no compensation. Grievances are pending in Helena for deputies who worked 17-hour days during the Augusta Rodeo and received no compensation because they were already at the maximum. We cannot say they cannot be required to work overtime but we should have enough respect to pay them for work performed. Overtime would be eliminated from the 90% rule. Base pay could not go more than 90%, however.

John Scully, Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association, said the percentage changes afforded in SB375 are also in this bill. Something will have to be done with the percentages after SB50 is dealt with. The subcommittee on SB50 met to deal with the bill in the House and should report it out by the first of next week.

Chuck O'Reilly, Lewis and Clark County Sheriff, said the main part of the bill starts on page 3. The rank structure is to allow for graduated increases within the department. Compensation relates only to base pay, not overtime or longevity. They need a work period in lieu of a work week because in law enforcement with a regular 5-day work week the officers seldom see a weekend off. Many departments are illegally running on 6 days on, 3 days off. Page 5 through the rest of the bill is existing law. The last section on the last page exempts law enforcement agencies from 40-hour work weeks. Section 4, page 4 is compensation for hours worked overtime, 1 1/2 times the hourly rate. Longevity is 1%. Compensation time creates a vicious circle. When one officer builds up time to take off they would have to work another officer overtime to compensate. Many officers work 10 months of overtime for free. City police have no limit. County commissioners would still have control of the budget so this will not get out of hand.

John Onstad, sheriff of Gallatin County and president of the Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association, supports the bill.

The deputy sheriffs that were in support of the bill and in attendance at the hearing each stood up and gave their name and the county they represented. (See attached visitor sheets for names and counties.)

Sharon Donaldson, AFSCME, Council 9, AFL-CIO, said she was representing the deputies from Lewis and Clark County and they support the bill and urge its passage.

Al Rierson, Flathead County Sheriff, supports the bill. This helps management in their supervisory responsibility. Flathead County has four officers with over ten years of service. The average is five years. Their careers are on the line because of their low income. He presented the committee with a breakdown of monthly expenses for one deputy. (See attached Exhibit A.) This creates many family problems.

Senator O'Hara spoke briefly in support of the bill. He said this bill is the same as SB375 which he presented to the committee a few weeks ago. It is a good bill.

There were no opponents of the bill appearing before the committee.

Senator McCallum then called for questions from the committee.

Senator McCallum asked Mr. Scully to keep the committee posted on what the House was doing with SB50.

Mr. Scully agreed and said it would be Friday at the earliest before they made a decision.

Senator Conover asked if this was tied to SB50.

Mr. Scully said SB375 was put into this bill and the committee might want to change the percentages after SB50 is decided upon.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL 393:

AN ACT TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT THAT
BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MUST PUBLISH
A DETAILED LIST OF THEIR EXPENDED CLAIMS;
REQUIRING THE PUBLISHING OF EXPENDITURE
TOTALS.

Representative Vinger, District No. 3, said this is a simple bill. On lines 18 and 19 they struck "complete list of all claims ordered paid for all purposes showing the name, purpose and amount" and added "the expenditure totals for each budget category, the total expended in each fund for the budget year." He thinks they have been requiring too much in the past.

Mike Stephen, Montana Association of Counties, supports the bill. The intentions are pure economics, expenditures are cut. You can still inquire at the courthouse or attend public meetings if you are that interested.

Bill Romine, Clerk and Recorders Association, supports the bill. The cost involved is not overshadowed by the fact the information will be available. People don't care that much about it anyway.

Mary Lee Dietz, Fallon County clerk and recorder, supports the bill for economic reasons.

Senator McCallum then called for opponents of the bill.

Mike Meloy, Montana Press Association, said he was rather reluctant to oppose the bill but the association thinks it might not be a good bill. They have not yet heard from the counties what they plan to save through this bill. Although larger weekly newspapers might be able to absorb the reduction in their income, it is the little newspapers that will suffer the cost from the reduction. It is not true that no one cares about what is in the newspaper. He thinks people like to see how the county is spending their money. He doubts that counties will save very much. The problem is the little newspaper can't afford to print it without being paid for it. The small newspaper would have to increase subscription rates but the reduction is not quite enough to warrant that. They would end up not printing it in small newspapers at all. The small amount counties contribute to newspapers is a good thing.

Representative Vinger, in closing, said he can understand what Mr. Meloy has stated. Some people will probably miss this because they do read it but itemizing each category is a waste. They will still get results by itemizing. He thinks this is a reasonable approach.

Senator McCallum then called for questions from the committee.

Senator Ochsner asked Representative Vinger if they were publishing individual salaries now.

Representative Vinger answered that some are. Legally they are suppose to itemize but some are categorizing.

Senator Ochsner asked what this will save the counties.

Representative Vinger said he was told in Roosevelt County the cost would be cut in half, around \$700 per month.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL 179:

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 76-4-105 AND 76-4-128, MCA, TO INCREASE THE LOT FEES CHARGED FOR SERVICES RENDERED IN THE REVIEW OF SUBDIVISIONS; TO ALLOW MORE REIMBURSEMENT TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS PERFORMING SUBDIVISION REVIEW FUNCTIONS.

Representative Donaldson, District No. 29, said this updates fees paid to the Subdivision Bureau of the Department of Health. They computed inflation costs and came up with the \$40 figure instead of the present \$25. The Subdivision Bureau, in cooperation with local governments, reviews subdivisions to make sure they have the proper kind of water and sewer systems. He suggests amending the bill to bring it back to its original form. On page 1, line 14, \$30 should be stricken and \$40 inserted. On page 3, line 8, \$15 should be stricken and \$20 put back in. Those figures are the total amount per parcel. The \$20 would go to local governments. He does not agree this should be funded by the general fund as some people suggest. Fees should pay for the operation of the bureau. If we cut this back it would be detrimental for those who want to subdivide.

Ed Casne , chief of the Subdivision Bureau, supports the bill.

Margaret Davis, League of Women Voters, supports the original figures presented in the House and the original language. The fees should keep pace with inflation to expedite efficient handling of subdivision requests at state and local levels. This insures that developers will be paying their own way. Unless there is adequate funding, the process will be slowed down. (See attached Exhibit B.)

Tom Barger, Missoula County Health Department, said the Subdivision Bureau is respected by all departments, they have done a very good job. Before, subdivisions were reviewed by the Water Quality Bureau; their reviews were not adequate, the people were not qualified. The people need these funds.

Dan Mizner, League of Cities and Towns, supports the bill. He supports the amendments to raise the amounts.

Mike Stephen, Montana Association of Counties, supports the bill as amended. The current staff needs to have existing funding for efficient operation. He agrees that local governments would get a portion of this if they are brought into the system.

Cliff Christian, Montana Association of Realtors, supports the bill as presented to this committee and suggests no amendments be

made. Developers make commissions off gross sales of land. He does not think they should come to each session of the legislature asking for more money. He suggested there were no more inefficiencies in this department than any other department, there is no more efficiency either. It was first funded with general fund money for health restrictions. Now there is no general fund aid at all. The increase to \$40 is a 62 1/2% increase. The Legislative Fiscal Analyst's office suggested it be reduced and transferred to Water Quality. The expertise lies in the Water Quality Department. With the \$30 rate there is ample money being returned to the local government for their part in the review process. He hopes the committee keeps the bill as amended by the House.

There were no opponents of the bill appearing before the committee.

Representative Donaldson, in closing, said he hopes the amendments will be passed to put the fees back to their form in the original bill. It is a large increase but it has been six years since it was last raised. It is going to cost this kind of money to fund this. The full subcommittee decided it was not proper to transfer it.

Senator McCallum then called for questions from the committee.

Senator Hammond asked someone to outline the kinds of things the Subdivision Bureau is responsible for.

Mr. Casne answered they review the water supply, sewage treatment, waste disposal and environmental impact.

Senator Ochsner asked how the fees were distributed to the counties.

Mr. Casne said the Department of Health collects the fees and distributes the money to the counties.

Senator Ochsner asked what the percentage was.

Mr. Casne said it varies. It depends on the size of the subdivision, there is a graduated scale depending on size.

Senator Hammond asked if they took the percolation test.

Mr. Casne said no, they evaluate information supplied to them.

Senator Hammond asked how many members are on the bureau.

Mr. Casne said there are currently 6: 4 professionals, 1 bureau chief and 1 clerical. They have 9 FTE authorized.

Senator Hammond asked how much they would get for 100 lots.

Mr. Casne said it would depend on the water system, etc. The biggest share of the \$15 increase will go back to the counties.

Senator McCallum asked if they were only authorized 9 FTE, do the sanitarians belong to the county.

Mr. Casne said they are not employed by the Department of Health.

Senator McCallum asked if Mr. Casne was authorized to check over their findings.

Mr. Casne said when the county is under contract then the local sanitarian does review it on their behalf.

Senator McCallum said then they don't come directly to Helena.

Mr. Casne said they have a branch office in Kalispell that is responsible for Sanders, Lake, Flathead and Lincoln Counties.

Senator McCallum thought the person in Kalispell was doing private consulting work.

Mr. Casne said that was not true to his knowledge.

Senator Hammond asked how they serve the northeastern part of the state.

Mr. Casne answered they serve that part of the state out of Helena as best they can. They rely a lot on the sanitarians.

Senator Ochsner asked if most subdivisions are done by local sanitarians in the eastern part of the state.

Mr. Casne said that was not correct, the sanitarians are the eyes and ears in the eastern part more than any other part of the state.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL 760:

AN ACT TO PROVIDE PROCEDURES FOR THE
ELECTORS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO CONSOLIDATE
OR TRANSFER THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY FOR SERVICES BETWEEN OR AMONG
MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES.

Representative Waldron, District No. 97, said this bill allows voters to make decisions by providing a means whereby they may consolidate or transfer the administrative and financial responsibility for services between or among municipalities and counties. Several steps are required for consolidation. First, a service plan needs developed, also how it would be administered and funded. It could be placed on the ballot by referendum or

initiative. Once the matter is placed on the ballot it rests with the voters. It allows interlocal cooperation commissions to place findings on the ballot. A petition of 15% of the voters is required to place the issue on the ballot. This requires a service plan, it requires publication of the plan, it provides for protection of obligations and judicial review. Any complaints must be made within 60 days of the election. The Billings Chamber of Commerce asked him to carry this bill.

Dave Goss, Billings Chamber of Commerce, explained how the bill came about. They have tried to bring about a way to consolidate or transfer because of their concern with the increase in cost of local governments. There is a lot of duplication between the two bodies. While the Constitution provides for local governments to cooperate or consolidate, there wasn't a mechanism for voters to bring that about. You can have an interlocal agreement but the problem with that is in the area of controversy or emotional issues it would be impossible to bring about an agreement. This bill does not affect existing laws dealing with interlocal agreements. The community can decide how services will be provided. (See attached Exhibit C.)

Senator McCallum then called for opponents of the bill.

John Scully, Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association, said this is a law enforcement problem also. There is a means currently available at the local level to deal with consolidation of law enforcement. It is not a simple problem. There is double taxation. There is a format available to put pressure on people to get items consolidated if that is what they want. If you pass this bill, 15% of the voters will come rushing in and consolidate law enforcement and throw one or the other out. A county or city official will be eliminated. There would be a real problem with taxation and financing the sheriff or police department. He has no problem with communities wanting to consolidate but they can do that now without this bill. The bill was brought about by Al Thelen who is now the city manager of Billings.

Chuck O'Reilly, Lewis and Clark County Sheriff, agrees with Mr. Scully. He thinks this is an unnecessary law. You can get rid of an unwanted individual if you want to. This bill is designed for Billings, no one else seems to want it. He hopes the committee kills the bill.

Al Rierson, Flathead County Sheriff, said a lot of people move out of cities because the city government doesn't give them what they expect. He opposes the bill for the same reasons expressed by Mr. Scully and Sheriff O'Reilly.

Representative Waldron, in closing, said this has nothing to do

with consolidating cities and counties. He resents the statement by Mr. Scully concerning Mr. Thelen. This bill was put together before Mr. Thelen became the manager of the city of Billings. This bill is not to consolidate governments, it provides means for interlocal cooperation to place consolidation or transfer of responsibility for services on the ballot. The sheriffs are afraid people would consolidate their office. He trusts people more than the sheriffs seem to.

Senator McCallum then called for questions from the committee.

Senator Ochsner said it takes 15% of the voters to get this on the ballot but what would it take in the election to get this.

Representative Waldron said it would take the majority. It requires 15% of electors in each municipality and 15% of electors in the county.

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 28:

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE
TO STUDY THE EFFICIENCY OF THE SEVEN AREA
AGENCIES ON AGING IN MONTANA AND THEIR
ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE PEOPLE THEY SERVE.

Senator Himsl was unable to attend the hearing to present the resolution to the committee so Senator McCallum presented it. The hearing was turned over to Vice-Chairman O'Hara.

Senator McCallum, District No. 12, presented this resolution at the request of Senator Himsl. Senator Himsl had requested this be drafted and passed in order for the Interim Finance Committee to call for a study of the area agencies on aging in Montana. They had a bill in the House that would have changed the area regions back to the county. The subcommittee on Appropriations felt a need for a study in these areas. This asks the Finance Committee to study them and bring back recommendations to the next legislature.

Jim Jensen, Low Income Senior Citizens Advocates, strongly endorses this resolution. Representative Stobie brought the proposal to the subcommittee on Appropriations to streamline or eliminate area agencies on aging. They do not have adequate information concerning this. There are problems and he feels this is the best way to go about making the decisions.

There were no opponents of the resolution appearing before the committee.

Senator O'Hara then called for questions from the committee.

Senator Conover asked what problems Mr. Jensen was referring to.

Mr. Jensen said the problems are questions of whether administrative money is being used to the detriment of the actual provision of services of various agencies. People testified on both sides of the question. The House did not have cost figures so a study is needed to come up with varifiable figures.

Senator Hammond asked how many people were involved in giving service in these seven agencies.

Mr. Jensen did not have that information. There was conflict in the testimony. There are seven doctors, some places have a full-time secretary and some have assistant doctors.

Senator Hammond asked who would make the study.

Senator McCallum answered the study would be made by the Legislative Fiscal Analyst's office.

Senator Hammond asked if this would be the study they choose.

Senator McCallum said they would make recommendations to the Interim Finance Committee who would study it and make recommendations to the legislature.

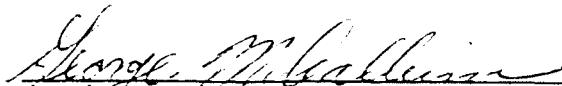
DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 357: Debbie Schmidt said the only change was on line 16 from "shall" to "may", allowing the fire marshal to use discretion as to if the structure should be repaired or demolished.

Senator McCallum said Senator Van Valkenburg was concerned it would never be done if it was "may". The fire marshal said they often do not have the money for this.

Senator O'Hara moved the bill be concurred in. The motion carried unanimously, Senators Thomas and Van Valkenburg were excused.

DISPOSITION OF SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 28: Senator Ochsner moved the bill be concurred in. Senators Van Valkenburg and Thomas were excused, Senator Hammond abstained, all others voted aye.

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.


Chairman George McCallum

ROLL CALL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

47th LEGISLATIVE SESSION - - 1981

Date 3/18/81

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Senator George McCallum	✓		
Senator Jesse O'Hara	✓		
Senator H. W. Hammond	✓		
Senator J. Donald Ochsner	✓		
Senator Bill Thomas	Excused		
Senator Max Conover	✓		
Senator Fred Van Valkenburg	✓ Excused		

Each day attach to minutes.

MARCH 18, 1981

BILL NO. / SJR28

[illegible]

(Please leave prepared statement with Secretary)

DATE

MARCH 18, 1981

COMMITTEE ON

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BILL NO. HB179

VISITOR'S REGISTER

NAME	REPRESENTING	Check One	
		Support	Oppose
Dr. F. Hagerman	AFSCME, AFH-CIA	Q	
Dennis Thurston	Health & Env. Sciences	✓	
Al. Rierson	Shari, PD	✓	
Tom Bangin	Miss Co Health Dept	✓	
Edward Zuberger	Miss Co. Health Dept	✓	
Cliff Hopper	Health & Env Sciences	✓	
Bob Boring	Fergus County Sheriff's Dept	✓	
Tom Boring	Zugus Co. Sheriff Dept	✓	
Cliff Hopper	Miss Co Sheriff	✓	
John A. Reed	Miss Co. Sheriff #21		
William McCall	LNU of Miss	✓	
Ed Cam	DHES	✓	
Don Williams	DHES	✓	
Alvin Wiggins	Unit League of C & T	✓	
Cliff Christian	MT ASSN of REALTORS	✓	
John Ditty		✓	
Gregory P Smith	Miss Co. Sheriff's Dept	✓	
Dick Sol	Miss Co. Sheriff's Dept	✓	
Mike Steyer	MT Assoc of Co	✓	
Mary Ann Reitz	Fallon City Clerk & Recorder	✓	

(Please leave prepared statement with Secretary)

DATE

MARCH 18, 1981

COMMITTEE ON

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BILL NO. HB558

VISITOR'S REGISTER

NAME	REPRESENTING	Check One	
		Support	Oppose
B. F. Hegerman	APSONC, AFL-CIO	✓	
Marion Denardson	AFSCME, Council 19 AFL-CIO	✓	
A. I. Rierson	Sheriff F.C.S.O.	✓	
Phil [unclear]	Fort Bend Co. Sheriff's Dept	✓	
[unclear]	" "	✓	
James B. Haupt	" "	✓	
[unclear]	Tell Co. + Clark + Ross		
Robert Campbell	Hallatin Co. Sheriff	✓	
[unclear]	Calaveras Co. Sheriff's Dept	✓	
Chuck [unclear]	Sheriffs Assoc.	✓	
L. John Oustad	Mont. Sheriffs + Peace Officers	✓	
[unclear]			
Dave Brown	Rep. District 83 - S. 100000	✓	
Donald [unclear]	Miss. Co. Sheriff	✓	
John A. [unclear]	" " "	✓	
Tom [unclear]	" " "	✓	
Ed [unclear]	" " "	✓	
David A. Bell	" " "	✓	
Mike McFERRIN	Lewis + Clark County Sheriff	✓	
[unclear]	" " " " "	✓	
[unclear]	" " " " "	✓	
John H. [unclear]	" " " " "	✓	
Patricia [unclear]	Malheur Co Sheriff - 911 Dispatch	✓	
T. [unclear]	Malheur Co Sheriff Dept	✓	
David R. [unclear]	" " " " "	✓	

(Please leave prepared statement with Secretary)

3/18/81

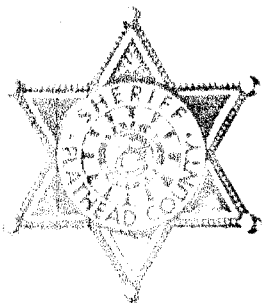
Local Government

HB 558

VISITOR'S REGISTER

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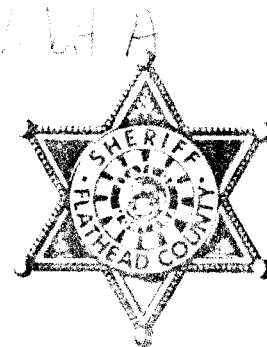
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AL C. RIERSON
SHERIFF-CORONER

BOX 1076 - PHONE 755-3691

KALISPELL, MONTANA 59901



TO: The Honorable members of the Montana House of Representatives
Local Government Committee

FROM: Sheriff Al Rierson

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

In reference to Senate Bill 50, I would like to express a few views on the need for an adequate salary for deputy sheriffs throughout the state of Montana. I speak in behalf of my own department, Flathead County Sheriff's Department. Currently, we have thirty-five sworn officers. Flathead is the largest in area of the six major counties. We are the third largest in population of the six major counties. Looking back over the years, we have only one officer who has stayed in the department for fifteen years out of the past twenty. The rest range from fourteen to two and three years in service. One of the principal reasons, of course, for this high turnover is the lack of an adequate salary. Losing a trained officer, with his schooling and two or three years of experience, is a cost of from \$15,000 to \$25,000 at least.

Following is a breakdown of one officer's monthly salary and his payments, for a family of three:

Take-home pay		
Monthly payments	\$1200.00	
Car payments	145.00	
Furniture payments	75.00	
Rent for space	85.00	
Gas and care for vehicle	60.00	
Lights and heat	60.00	
Telephone	30.00	
TV cable	20.00	
Life Insurance	35.00	
Car License and ins.	50.00	
		<u>765.00</u>
Remainder, food and all other costs		160.52

This particular officer has a hospital/doctor bill - over and above the insurance payments - of \$1200.

Also, remember that in 1975, the dollar lands plus worth of gold.

In 1980, the dollar lands plus worth of gold.

In 1990, \$405.52 lands plus worth of gold.

This is a short summary to substantiate my plea for your support for an adequate salary for sheriffs and deputy sheriffs in Montana.

Exhibit B

To: Senate Committee on Local Government
From: League of Women Voters of Montana

Re: HB 179

The League of Women Voters strongly supports the right of all Montana citizens to a clean and healthful environment. This right is clearly assured to us in our state constitution.

Under the Sanitation in Subdivision Act the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences has the responsibility to review and lift sanitary restrictions on all land divisions under 20 acra in size. Some counties have contracted with DHES to review minor subdivisions at the local level. To cover the local health department's costs the state returns to them a portion of the fees collected. DHES, staffed with personnel more highly trained in a variety of areas, reviews all major subdivisions. This service to local governments eliminates the need for costly duplication of expertise at the local level while still ensuring the more exacting review required by developments with a major impact.

We believe that this system of review is a good one and should be properly funded. We believe that the increase in fees proposed by the original bill is necessary to support adequate review at both the state and local level and will benefit everyone. It will benefit the developer because it will expedite review time, avoiding the inevitable delays which come when health departments do not have adequate staff. The original fee increase will benefit citizens in general because it will help ensure that state and local officials have the personnel to perform their functions. The fees which fund this necessary review function have remained the same for four years. We believe the proposed increase in the fee schedule is needed to keep pace with inflation. We also believe the department should be self sufficient and not subsidized by the general fund.

The League of Women Voters urges the committee to support HB 179 as originally submitted. We thank the committee for this opportunity to comment.



The Billings Area Chamber of Commerce supports House Bill 760.

This bill would allow the voters to make decisions about their government by providing a means whereby those voters, who are paying for and receiving the services of local governments, can consolidate or transfer a service function between or among municipalities and the county.

In order for service consolidation or transfer to occur, HB 760 would require that several steps be taken. First, a service plan would have to be developed identifying the service to be consolidated or transferred, how that service would be administered, and how it would be funded. This plan could then be placed on the ballot either through the initiative process or by a referendum of the governing bodies if the recommended plan comes from an interlocal cooperation commission which is provided for by existing law. Once the matter is placed on the ballot, the final decision on service consolidation or transfer rests with the voters.

HB 760 would not alter the ability of local governing bodies to enter into interlocal agreements, but rather would provide another means to achieve service consolidation or transfer. It is needed because there is a limiting factor in the use of interlocal agreements in that all the governing bodies involved must be able to reach agreement on the proposed consolidation or transfer. Therefore the use of this method is fine when no controversy or emotional issues are involved. But when the proposed consolidation or transfer affects a politically sensitive or controversial area, political considerations may prevent the governing bodies from reaching an agreement, despite the wishes or desires of the public. In such cases, HB 760 would provide a means to overcome such roadblocks to consolidation or transfer by allowing the voters to make the decision.

HB 760 would also provide a method for implementing the recommendations of an interlocal cooperation commission. In the past in Montana there have been two interlocal cooperation commissions created, in Missoula and Helena, and for the most part the recommendations of these commissions are sitting on shelves. While there were some other reasons that may have prevented these recommendations from being implemented, it is possible the findings of these commissions might have been implemented if HB 760 had been law. Another such commission has just been formed in Yellowstone County.

We believe that the voters, those people who pay for and receive the services of local governments, should have a method available to them to determine how they want their services provided. We ask you to support HB 760.



CITY OF BILLINGS

February 18, 1981

Verner Bertelsen, Chairman
House Local Government Committee

220 NORTH 27TH STREET
P. O. BOX 1178
BILLINGS, MONTANA 59103
PHONE (406) 248-7511

The City of Billings supports House Bill 760.

With the economic conditions facing local governments today, it is becoming increasingly apparent that local governments must search for more efficient ways to deliver services including the consolidation or transfer of similar city and county functions. In this respect, we feel that House Bill 760 provides a good method of bringing about such consolidation or transfer.

While there are presently methods available with which to consolidate or transfer such services between local governments, there are times that political considerations make reaching such agreements difficult if not impossible. House Bill 760 would provide a means whereby such political consideration and problems could be overcome by referring the question to the voters.

House Bill 760 would also allow the consolidation and transfer of a service function to be tailored to meet the individual needs and unique problems of a specific community, flexibility that is not always available under present law.

In Yellowstone County at the present time, an interlocal cooperation commission has been formed to examine law enforcement in the county and its cities. While we are not trying to second-guess what their findings and recommendations will be, House Bill 760 would certainly provide an important means of implementing any recommendation they may make with regards to any consolidation.

The City of Billings urges that House Bill 760 be given a "do pass" recommendation.

Sincerely,

Cy Jamison
Ward 3 Council Member

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 179

By: Elizabeth J. Knight, R.S.

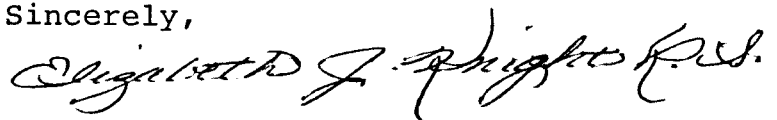
Mr. Chairman and committee members, my name is Elizabeth Knight. I am currently employed as the Jefferson - Broadwater County Sanitarian. I appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 179 which allows an increase in the lot fees charged for services rendered in the review of subdivisions and also allows increased reimbursements to local governments performing the review functions.

My particular concern with this bill is that without the proposed fee increase it could very well mean the end of the Subdivision Bureau or a substantial decrease in staff members currently working for the Bureau. As a county sanitarian, I am assuming that the functions performed by the Subdivision Bureau, should it cease to exist, would then be turned over to local government entities to perform as they see fit. I feel that this would be a great injustice in many areas. First of all, the standardized process of judgement made by subdivision bureau personnel would become a very subjective process, varying from county to county, seemingly leaving you with 56 different sets of rules, regulations and policies. There then exists the problem of adequate information at the county level on which to base decisions. Numerous Montana counties are without any type of soils, geological or hydrological information at present. The political ramifications on the county level would be ridiculous. It would turn an objective program into a very subjective one; forced approvals and uncontrolled development are two problems controlled by the current system. Speaking from the standpoint of a small office which covers two counties, one county

being the third fastest growing county in the state and the other the ninth, I just don't feel that this office, in view of the current workload, could handle the subdivision review process from start to finish without adding additional staff members on the county level, to the present staff consisting of one secretary and myself. It is an assumption on my part that if this bill is not passed you, as legislators, are saying there is no need for the Subdivision Bureau. I realize that it is the trend to turn regulation back to the people and local government. Working for the local government, I for one feel that's great providing that it gives Montana citizens the best solution. It seems to me that it would be more cost effective for all involved if we could work with the bureau processes we currently have to build them into the most efficient and productive method for review, which at present, gives local governments the opportunity to be involved if they feel they have the personnel and capabilities to do so.

I therefore urge this committee to recommend a do pass on HB 179 for a subdivision review fee increase. I believe, at present, the Subdivision Bureau is the least costly and most feasible means of reviewing subdivisions.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth J. Knight, R.S.
Broadwater-Jefferson County Sanitarian
Box 622
Boulder, MT 59632

NAME:

Chuck O'Reilly

DATE:

3-18-81

ADDRESS:

Delena

PHONE:

438-9146

REPRESENTING WHOM?

Front. Shoppers & Peace Officers

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL:

HB 558

DO YOU:

SUPPORT?

☒

AMEND?

OPPOSE?

COMMENTS:

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME :

DATE: 3-18-81

ADDRESS :

MT.

PHONE :

587-4809

REPRESENTING WHOM?

Montana Sheriff's

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL:

HB 558

DO YOU:

SUPPORT?

X

AMEND?

OPPOSE?

COMMENTS :

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME: A. J. Pierson DATE: 3-18-81

ADDRESS: 1467 Highway #2 - W. Kalispell

PHONE: 257-11740 OFFICE 755-3691

REPRESENTING WHOM? Sheriff Flathead County

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: House Bill # 558

DO YOU: SUPPORT? ☐ AMEND? ☐ OPPOSE? ☐

COMMENTS: To be in support of Bill

NAME: Orren Unger DATE: 3/18/

ADDRESS: 517 Johnson Waypoint

PHONE: ~~563~~ 653-1704

REPRESENTING WHOM? DIST #3

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: 343

DO YOU: SUPPORT? ☒ AMEND? ☐ OPPOSE? ☐

COMMENTS: _____

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME: William L. Braine DATE: 3-18-81

ADDRESS: Box 1691 Helena

PHONE: 442-2220

REPRESENTING WHOM? Clerk & Records

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: H.B. 393

DO YOU: SUPPORT? — AMEND? — OPPOSE? —

COMMENTS: the cost & expenses associated with the present
system is excessive, ~~and~~ considering the amount
of information the public really needs. Under
this bill, the totals for each budget category would
would be published.

NAME: Wm. L. Hunt DATE: 5-18-51

ADDRESS: Box 430 Baker

PHONE: 778-2846

REPRESENTING WHOM? Fallon Court

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: H.B. 39-2

DO YOU: SUPPORT? ✓ AMEND? OPPOSE?

COMMENTS: Support this bill in the interest

of saving the taxpayers money by
for this publication.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME: ED CA DATE: 3/18/81

ADDRESS: 2216 5TH AVE ATLANTA

PHONE: 402-1111

REPRESENTING WHOM? UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

APPEARING ON WHICH APPEAL: 17th

DO YOU: SUPPORT? AMEND? 1 OPPOSE?

COMMENTS:

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME: Tom Barger DATE: 3/18/81

ADDRESS: 1414 Jackson Street Missa MT

PHONE: 721-2467

REPRESENTING WHOM? Missa City County Health Dept

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: HB 179

DO YOU: SUPPORT? X AMEND? OPPOSE?

COMMENTS: The Subdivision Bureau has a competent
and qualified director and its staff also shows the
quality. We feel this Bureau deserves your
support because the Bureau performs an important
function for the State "Protection of water quality
and ~~the~~ Public Health". The Missa County Health
Department believes the Subdivision Bureau
does an excellent job performing these functions
and we feel that our efforts and the support
and help of this Bureau.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME: Jim Jensen DATE: 3-18-81

ADDRESS: Habena

PHONE: 443-1630

REPRESENTING WHOM? LISCA

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: SJR28

DO YOU: SUPPORT? X AMEND? _____ OPPOSE? _____

COMMENTS: _____

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Date 3/18/81 SJR Bill No. 28 Time 7:30

NAME	YES	NO
Senator George McCallum	✓	
Senator Jesse O'Hara	✓	
Senator H. W. Hammond	Abstained	
Senator J. Donald Ochsner	✓	
Senator Bill Thomas	Excused	
Senator Max Conover	✓	
Senator Fred Van Valkenburg	Excused	

Gail Stockwell
Secretary, Gail Stockwell

George McCallum
Chairman, GEORGE MCCALLUM

Motion: Senator Ochsner moved the bill be
concurred in.

(include enough information on motion--put with yellow copy of committee report.)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Date 3/18/81 House Bill No. 357 Time 7:30

NAME	YES	NO
Senator George McCallum	✓	
Senator Jesse O'Hara	✓	
Senator H. W. Hammond	✓	
Senator J. Donald Ochsner	✓	
Senator Bill Thomas	Excused	
Senator Max Conover	✓	
Senator Fred Van Valkenburg	Excused	

Gail Stockwell
Secretary, Gail Stockwell

George McCallum
Chairman, GEORGE MCCALLUM

Motion: Senator O'Hara moved the bill be
concurrent in.

(include enough information on motion—put with yellow copy of committee report.)

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 18

19.....

MR. **PRESIDENT**

We, your committee on **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

having had under consideration **SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION** Bill No. **28**

HIMSL

Respectfully report as follows: That **SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION** Bill No. **28**

MC.
DO PASS

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 18 19 81

MR. **PRESIDENT**

We, your committee on **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

having had under consideration **HOUSE** Bill No. **357**

ENDING (BERG)

Respectfully report as follows: That **HOUSE** Bill No. **357**

MC

BE CONCURRED IN
DO PASS