

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE SENATE

April 22, 1981

The 50th meeting of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee met in room 108 of the State Capitol on the above date. Senator Hims1, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:12 a.m. with all members present, roll call is attached.

Senator Hims1 explained the session had lasted too long the day before so there was no meeting in the afternoon. We have to get about 4 bills out of our committee to the floor of the Senate since this is the 11th hour. The bills have to get to one place or another now.

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 867: Motion by Senator Dover that House Bill 867 be not concurred in. Voted, passed, 9-6 with Senator Stimatz absent.

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 868: Motion by Senator Dover that House Bill 868 be concurred in. Voted, passed, 11-4, Senator Stimatz absent, Senator Dover to carry the bill.

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 869: Senator Hims1 said this is the MHD bill. This invades the constitutional trust fund. Senator Thomas is passing around some amendments to see what the feeling of the committee is on them.

Senator Regan: If the money should be appropriated is the agreement that it will not be spent if the Federal money does not come and if it does come, that it will not be spent until that time? This is the only way I would support the bill. I cannot find it in the bill. Senator Thomas: page 4, section 2 are listed the conditions.

Senator Thomas presented the amendments as 1. Title, lines 18 and 19. Strike: "TRUST FUND CREATED BY SECTION 5, ARTICLE IX, OF THE MONTANA CONSTITUTION" and to insert: "component of the general fund" and 2. page 3, line 23 to strike "Principal of the" and on line 24 "TRUST FUND CREATED BY SECTION 5, ARTICLE IX, OF THE MONTANA CONSTITUTION" Insert "component of the general fund"

MOTION by Senator Thomas to adopt the above amendments. Voted, failed, vote 7-9.

MOTION by Senator Thomas that House Bill 869 be concurred in. Motion lost, 7-9. The motion was then made by Senator Dover that House Bill 869 BE NOT CONCURRED IN. The committee agreed on a reverse vote on the last roll call. Motion passed, 9-7. Senator Jacobson announced after the meeting closed that she would present a minority report on the floor.

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 873: Motion by Senator Haffey that House Bill 873 be concurred in. Voted, lost. 7-9. Motion by Senator Etchart that we reverse the vote for a Do not

be concurred in. Voted and passed.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL 666: Senator Himsl said that rather than wrestle with this Bill upstairs and also in the committee, I think we should continue the hearing and let it be argued up stairs. We do not have the time to wrestle it here, we will be doing it up stairs and if changes are made it will be wrestled again in conference committee. We can vote on the bill as presented, recognizing there are a lot of diverse interests in it.

There were no further proponents of the bill, and Senator Himsl asked if there were opponents.

Representative Waldron, spoke as a opponent of House Bill 666. He said 563 was a bonding bill and there was some question in the committee as to the cost. I too, had some concerns about the new nursing home at Columbia Falls. The nursing home is not listed anywhere in the book. The cost of the new nursing home beds will be \$37,000 per bed. There are 600 empty beds in nursing homes in the state. Adding nursing home beds has a significant impact on the other budgets. Current nursing home beds are \$44 a day. The Feds only pay \$12.50 leaving a cost of \$31.90. The average cost of nursing homes in the state are just not that high. At the current nursing home in Columbia Falls, the state pays an average cost of \$28.20. This is nearly double the cost at the Veterans nursing home, and the people can leave there from the domiciliary. In the summer many of them take off and visit. The nursing home, however, is a full scale nursing home. $\frac{1}{2}$ of the nursing home beds will be used for domiciliary purposes. That is an extraordinarily high cost for building the dom. The statement was made that there are about 35 people waiting. Most of the people are already in the nursing homes and there-in lies the problem. If you build this it will be an impact on medicaid and we have to pay for those empty beds in nursing homes.

Representative Waldron continued to explain the amount of beds available, the amount of pay made by the Government, etc. and said he would urge the committee not to vote for this facility at Columbia Falls.

Rose Skoog, Montana Nursing Home Association said they have problems with one of the projects. We have a basic concern as to whether the state needs to be in the nursing home business at Columbia Falls. She said the original status was to provide domiciliary care at the Veterans Home in Columbia Falls. She said she did not feel the state needed to get into the business of nursing homes since there are 94 homes providing that service. She told of the people in the nursing homes, the amount of employees in nursing homes, the areas throughout the state making it closer to the veteran's family than at Columbia Falls, especially for those in Eastern Montana, etc. She said \$37,000 per bed is expensive in a state where the agency indicated the cost should be about \$28,000 per bed, and by the time you retire the bonds the \$1.8 million is closer to \$4 million. She said the cost of care is higher than the other nursing homes.

She said I think this proposal is truly contradictory to the nursing home policy by the state in respect to the state nursing home policies. State policy at SRS is no new homes. It is directly aimed at controlling them and the reason is the cost. The costs are becoming prohibitive to the state and SRS is in the process of taking away burial trusts from people. She said she would hope that despite the fact that the date is late that the committee would look at this bill and remove that part. If they wait, they can get federal help for 2/3 of it.

There were no further proponents, no further opponents, and Senator Himsl asked if there were questions from the committee.

Senator Van Valkenburg: I would like to hear Representative Moore's response.

Senator Regan: I would have some questions. On the analysis, did the Department of Institutions bring this in, was this considered as part of the Institutions request? Ray, LFA: The Department had submitted requests for additional beds. It was not determined as to where. Chisholm, Department of Institutions: The Department had requested a 40 bed expansion. This particular request did not make it on the Governor's list.

Senator Regan: I could perhaps support this but I am upset when 2/3 of the funds could become available on a match. Chisholm: We are interested in getting the 2/3. We have applied for that money and were told there is not going to be any available for sure for 3 years and possibly not then.

Senator Regan: You did apply for this? Chisholm: Yes, and we made similar application several months ago. In talking to the people in Washington we are not sure when it would be available. This particular proposal is not the same one the Department had submitted. We had been waiting to get on the waiting list.

Senator Regan: My concern is Rose Skoog said that Montana is not on the waiting list and matching money will not be available after the construction has taken place. If we apply for a match, we must do it in the beginning. Who did you make the application to in Washington? Chisholm: We made that application to Rita Champton's office. We did not know how it would be viewed by the Legislature. We did this so that we would be on record.

Senator Regan: I think it wrong to spend state money at this time and if you are on a waiting list then we can wait with this bill and be in good shape.

Senator Haffey: Could Representative Moore address it? Chisholm: We had a bill to propose using beds at Galen for these same needs. Regan: The beds at Galen, if used would they be reimbursed for by the Feds and how much would have to be done? Chisholm: In talking to Mrs. Champion about Terrill wing, in all probability that could be set aside by the V.A. as long as

it included 31% veterans in that wing. They think possibly the only thing would be satisfied would be to sprinkle that wing and I believe we could reach the other qualifications for certification.

Senator Haffey: We think there is a need and LRB thinks so. Is there an alternative to building at Columbia Falls, like Galen? Chisholm: I suppose it could be done.

Senator Story: How many veterans in Montana? Bob Durkee: 106,000. There are 5,000 WW I and 55,000 WW II and the rest are Viet Nam.

In closing, Representative Moore said the same opposition was made in the appropriation and on the House floor and defeated both times. There is some erroneous information. The Veterans Home at Columbia Falls is to look after the veterans. There were 147 there a year ago. The administration building was built in 1956. It was built on Arizona standards and put in Montana. There is 24 out there. The old Dom must be 75 or 80 years old. 14 on the bottom floor of that. We looked into the possibility of redoing the adm. building. He said the cost was prohibitive, and the subcommittee after looking it over put in a bill to put in 50 beds to bring it back to the 150 veterans. The V.A. in Washington and the V.A. here notified us not to expect money until at least '84 or '85. and there would be no assurance we could get federal money for several years. We then put in for 50 beds, and instead of the dom specs. they suggested we build it to the nursing home standards. This does not only include the 50 additional units but also the necessary expansion of the dining facilities and the recreation area. The cost to the state in the current budget is \$486,000 and one year it was \$476,000 and in other funds nearly \$1.5 million. Those are V A and private funds. I had O & E compare it to the Cooney building here. The Cooney does not include the furnishings, the architect fees, etc. and they are comparable. There has been testimony as to the cost per day. The average day is \$28.42. The average cost is \$11.40 per day. Those veterans that go there the V A contributes \$6+ or \$12+ per day depending on their status. They are allowed to keep their assets and pay as much as they can toward their keep. If they go into a nursing home they lose their liquid assets. The administration changed last summer and the new administrator has tightened up the rules. I had the LFA check on the available beds and there is a waiting list up there. We have old buildings that are 75 to 80 years old and it is not satisfactory to live in. It is expensive for heat. This is being built to nursing care standards at the suggestion of the V A. The rest of the bill, I will leave it up to you on the floor. The committee spent money and traveled there. They looked at the construction. I think it was a very good and a very responsible committee. The value of the state owned buildings is \$486,227,700 and the maintenance of that to keep it up is 1%.

Senator Himsl: As I mentioned earlier there is not much point in raising it here and up on the floor too. Whatever is done will have to go across. It seems to me we should just vote on it and argue it on the floor.

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 666: Motion by Senator Boylan that House Bill 666 be concurred in.

Senator Story: We have two different sets of figures. We have a fiscal analyst that gives us another set of figures. We have one set from Representative Waldron, one from Miss Skoog, and one from the fiscal analyst.

Representative Moore: The average cost per individual (the 61 room dom and the 40 bed nursing home) is \$28.42 per day. The average cost to the state of Montana per day is \$11.42.

Representative Waldron: My figures are accurate. If you want to include the dom figures, you are comparing apples and oranges. It costs \$26+ to keep them in the nursing home in Columbia Falls. The values are different because Representative Moore's figures are including the Dom cost. The cost to the state for the nursing home patients is \$20.68 and every penny of it is general fund. The average cost in nursing homes average \$9.34 per day.

Senator Himsl: To follow it up? Waldron: The average cost in a nursing home at the V A is \$26 + per day.

Senator Himsl: What is the cost in the area? You don't get anything up there less than \$1,000 to \$1200 a month. I guess you want to be careful of your figures. Waldron: If it is a state facility, then you do have to use state figures. If you say Flathead area, and I guess most of those in the V. A. home are from that area, then your figures may differ. When you include the dorm---. Moore: Those are not dorms. They are private rooms. They are all in the same building. 40 have been set aside here for nursing homes. The rest are private rooms and bath.

Senator Aklestad: Somebody is giving wrong information. One side said a waiting list and one side says there are beds available. You can't have it both ways.

Ray Hoffman: I contacted the Montana Veterans and talked to the nursing home supervisor. She said two people now that cannot get in because they are full. They have one that has been on the list for months.

Rose Skoog gave a list of the vacancies in the nursing homes in the immediate area, among which were 9 at Polson, 10 at Eureka, 6 in Ronan and 3 in Whitefish.

MINUTES, Finance and Claims
April 22, 1981
Page six

QUESTION was called on Senator Boylan's motion to concur in.
Voted, passed, vote 9-7 attached. Senator Thomas to carry
the bill.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 a.m.

Senator Himsl, Chairman

ROLL CALL

FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE

47th LEGISLATIVE SESSION - - 1981

Date

4/22/81

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

HB 869 amendments:

1. Title, lines 18 and 19.

Strike: "TRUST FUND CREATED BY SECTION 5, ARTICLE IX, OF THE
MONTANA CONSTITUTION"

Insert: "component of the general fund"

2. Page 3, line 23.

Following: "from the"

Strike: "PRINCIPAL OF THE"

Following: "fund" on line 24

Strike: "TRUST FUND CREATED BY SECTION 5, ARTICLE IX OF THE
MONTANA CONSTITUTION"

Insert: "component of the general fund"

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

April 22, 1981

MR. **President**

We, your committee on **Finance and Claims**

having had under consideration **House** Bill No. **867**

Respectfully report as follows: That **House** Bill No. **867**

BE NOT CONCURRED IN

~~DO NOT~~

SENATE COMMITTEE

FINANCE AND CLAIMSDate 1/1/22Bill No. 207Time 8:14

NAME	YES	NO	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Senator Etchart	✓			
Senator Story	✓			
Senator Aklestad	✓			
Senator Nelson	✓			
Senator Smith	✓			
Senator Dover	✓			
Senator Johnson	✓			
Senator Keating	✓			
Senator Boylan				
Senator Regan				
Senator Thomas				
Senator Stimatz				
Senator Van Valkenburg				
Senator Haffey				
Senator Jacobson				
Senator Himsl				

Sylvia Kinsey
Secretary

Senator Himsl
Chairman

Motion:

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

April 22, 19 81

MR. President

We, your committee on Finance and Claims

having had under consideration House Bill No. 868

(Dover)

Respectfully report as follows: That House Bill No. 868

BE CONCURRED IN

~~DO PASS~~

SENATE COMMITTEE

FINANCE AND CLAIMS

Date

7-22

Bill No.

568

Time

8:17

NAME

YES

NO

ABSENT

EXCUSED

Senator Etchart

Senator Story

Senator Aklestad

Senator Nelson

Senator Smith

Senator Dover

Senator Johnson

Senator Keating

Senator Boylan

Senator Regan

Senator Thomas

Senator Stimatz

Senator Van Valkenburg

Senator Haffey

Senator Jacobson

Senator Himsl

Sylvia Kinsey
SecretarySenator Himsl
Chairman

Motion:

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

..... April 22, 19 81

MR. President

We, your committee on Finance and Claims

having had under consideration House Bill No. 869

Respectfully report as follows: That House Bill No. 869

BE NOT CONCURRED IN

~~XXXXX~~
DO PASS

P.A.

SENATE COMMITTEE

FINANCE AND CLAIMS

Date

4-22

Bill No.

867

Time

8:25

NAME	YES	NO	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Senator Etchart		✓		
Senator Story		✓		
Senator Aklestad		✓		
Senator Nelson		✓		
Senator Smith		✓		
Senator Dover		✓		
Senator Johnson		✓		
Senator Keating		✓		
Senator Boylan	✓			
Senator Regan	✓			
Senator Thomas	✓			
Senator Stimatz	✓			
Senator Van Valkenburg	✓			
Senator Haffey	✓			
Senator Jacobson	✓			
Senator Himsl	✓			

7 4

Sylvia Kinsey
SecretarySenator Himsl
Chairman

Motion:

11 A 17Amended

SENATE COMMITTEE

FINANCE AND CLAIMSDate June 14Bill No. 867Time 1:26

NAME	YES	NO	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Senator Etchart		✓		
Senator Story		✓		
Senator Aklestad		✓		
Senator Nelson		✓		
Senator Smith		✓		
Senator Dover		✓		
Senator Johnson		✓		
Senator Keating		✓		
Senator Boylan				
Senator Regan				
Senator Thomas				
Senator Stimatz				
Senator Van Valkenburg				
Senator Haffey				
Senator Jacobson				
Senator Himsl				

Sylvia Kinsey
Secretary

Senator Himsl
Chairman

Motion:

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

April ~~XX~~ 22, 19 81

MR. President

We, your committee on Finance and Claims

having had under consideration House Bill No. 666

(Thomas)

Respectfully report as follows: That House Bill No. 666

BE CONCURRED IN

~~EXTRA~~

SENATE COMMITTEE

FINANCE AND CLAIMSDate 4.22Bill No. 11Time 9:11

NAME	YES	NO	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Senator Etchart				
Senator Story				
Senator Aklestad				
Senator Nelson				
Senator Smith				
Senator Dover				
Senator Johnson				
Senator Keating				
Senator Boylan				
Senator Regan				
Senator Thomas				
Senator Stimatz				
Senator Van Valkenburg				
Senator Haffey				
Senator Jacobson				
Senator Himsl				

Sylvia Kinsey
Secretary

4-7
Senator Himsl
Chairman

Motion:

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

April 23, 19 81

MR. President

We, your committee on Finance and Claims

having had under consideration House Bill No. 973

Respectfully report as follows: That House Bill No. 973

BE NOT CONCURRED IN

~~XXXXXX~~
DO PASS

SENATE COMMITTEE

FINANCE AND CLAIMS

Date

4.22

Bill No.

873

Time

8:27

NAME	YES	NO	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Senator Etchart		✓		
Senator Story		✓		
Senator Aklestad		✓		
Senator Nelson		✓		
Senator Smith		✓		
Senator Dover		✓		
Senator Johnson		✓		
Senator Keating		✓		
Senator Boylan	✓			
Senator Regan	✓			
Senator Thomas	✓			
Senator Stimatz	✓			
Senator Van Valkenburg	✓			
Senator Haffey	✓			
Senator Jacobson	✓			
Senator Himsl				

9 4

Sylvia Kinsey
SecretarySenator Himsl
ChairmanMotion:

Handwritten signature/initials

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

April 22

19 81

MR. PRESIDENT

We, your ~~committee~~ OF THE MINORITY/COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND CLAIMS

having had under consideration SENATE HOUSE Bill No. 873

Respectfully report as follows: That HOUSE Bill No. 873

be concurred in.

HAFPEY

BOYLAN

REGAN

THOMAS

STIMATZ

VAN VALKENBURG

JACOBSON

DO PASE

ROSE M. SKOOG

NEED FOR THE BEDS:

Waiting list is around 25. They're building 50 beds--intend to use beds which meet nursing home standards (and are more expensive) for domiciliary residents.

FUNCTION OF VETERANS HOME:

Section 10-2-401 MCA provides that the Montana Veterans' Home, "as its primary function provides home and subsistence for honorably discharged veterans. The department of institutions may also admit spouses or surviving spouses of honorably discharged veterans to the home if space allows."

There is no mention of providing nursing home care as a function of COST: the veterans home.

This proposal does not include the cost of staff and equipment to service these new beds.

Nursing home beds:	\$44	per day cost
	x 365	days
	\$16,060	cost per year
	x 50	new nursing home beds
	\$803,000	Annual cost of new nursing home patients (with no cost increases over present costs)

If state general funds continue to pay approximately 47% of the costs as is the case now:

\$803,000	
x .47	
\$377,410	<u>Annual cost in state general funds for the new nursing home beds</u>
x 2	
\$754,820	<u>Cost per biennium (with no increases from present)--new beds only</u>

WHO OCCUPIES THE FACILITY?

Most of the residents at the Veterans Home in Columbia Falls are from the Kalispell area.

It is a well-established theory in geriatric care that geriatric patients prefer to stay close to the communities where they have lived, have friends, relatives, etc. The fact that the Columbia Falls facility draws largely from the Kalispell area tends to support this theory.

DOES THE VETERANS HOME PROVIDE INEXPENSIVE CARE?

Veterans Home cost per day: \$44.00

Other nursing homes (not state run) \$26.70 (average cost per day for FY 82)
\$29.48 (average cost per day for FY 83)

Nursing home rates range from \$20 per day to about \$45 per day.

The Veterans Home rate is higher than most private nursing homes.

*The \$44⁰⁰ rate @ the Veterans Home
does not include property costs
(i.e. - cost of the building) —*

*The rates quoted for other nursing
homes include property costs.*

CERTIFICATE OF NEED

State law requires anyone wishing to build nursing home bed
to go through the certificate of need process

--Dept. of Institutions submitted letter of intent to build 40 nursing home beds (sometime last year)--then withdraw the letter of intent

*Rep. Moon indicated this
proposal would not undergo
Certificate of Need scrutiny.*

COST OF CONSTRUCTION

This proposal is for 50 beds, with a price tag of \$1,850,000

\$ 37,000 per bed
50) \$1,850,000
beds

Department of Health indicates that their "best guess" as to
what the cost per bed should be for nursing home beds is
\$24,000 to \$28,000 per bed.

Why are the proposed beds so expensive?

*PROPOSAL FOR NEW FACILITY TO REPLACE
COONEY CONVALESCENT IN HELENA CAME IN AT
\$27,000 PER BED. THIS INCLUDES LAUNDRY,
KITCHEN & DINING FACILITIES, RECREATION
AREAS & EVERYTHING NECESSARY TO MEET
SKILLED NURSING STANDARDS. ALSO INCLUDES
EQUIPMENT.*

AVAILABILITY OF NURSING HOME BEDS:

from figures released by Montana Health Systems Agency for 1979:

<u>Region</u>	<u># Beds</u>	<u>Occupancy</u>	<u>Empty Beds</u>
North Central Montana	1070	92.3%	82
North Western Montana	1294	90.1%	128
South Western Montana	1482	86.6%	198
South Central Montana	1058	91.8%	87
Eastern Montana	969	80.1%	193
	<u>5873</u>		<u>688</u>

SRS indicates that 1980 occupancy figures were around 90%:

$$5873 \times 10\% = 587.3 \text{ empty beds}$$

Utilizing these beds would provide service to veterans close to their homes.



*Empty beds throughout
state*

Department of Institutions - Katherine Ward, Reimbursement Specialist

--RATES:

<u>Domiciliary</u> --full rate	\$21.37)	In addition to these rates oxygen, pills, and other "extras" are billed out separately
VA pays	<u>6.35</u>)	
Most a veteran will pay	\$15.02)	
<u>Nursing home</u> --full rate	\$44.00)	
VA pays	<u>12.10</u>)	
Most a veteran will pay	\$31.90)	

--indicated that these rates are much less expensive than the rates in private nursing homes

--DETERMINING ABILITY TO PAY:

Complete financial statement--look at income, assets, etc.

Could not cite particular scale used, for example what is the total assets a veteran could have and still obtain benefits; (there do not seem to be any hard and fast rules)

indicated a person could have \$4-5,000 in a savings account

indicated a person could keep a residence if he thought he might go back to it

some have automobiles

also look at outstanding bills to determine how much money they need to pay present debts

Veterans at the Home also sometimes receive supplementary VA benefits to pay for their care:

Aid in attendance--VA pays for medications, etc.

Veterans pension may be raised to help pay for care

(Veterans service workers help vets get these additional benefits and serve as advocates.)

VA per diem is not available to spouses so the state or the veteran absorbs this (depending on ability to pay).

Spouses are not allowed to occupy nursing home beds at this time--only domiciliary beds.

Administrator of Montana Veterans Home

--cost of care in terms of determining amount, if any, which should be paid by the veteran is determined in Helena

--the most any veteran pays is:

Domiciliary care (room, board and some help with cleaning room, and some personal care when needed)	\$15.02 per day
Nursing home care	\$31.90

This does not include amount VA pays toward care.

--Waiting list:

~~--varies from 15 to 35 at any given time for nursing home
beds--the wait for the beds is around 4 to 5 months;
people on waiting list often find some other alternative
instead of waiting for the VA bed to open up~~

--the waiting list for domiciliary beds is short--it's especially easy to get in in the summer because many of the vets leave the home during the summer, take trips, etc.

Ray Hoffman, Fiscal Analyst

--Dept. of Institutions did not ask for new beds as part of the normal budgeting process

--federal funds for building this project might be available in 1985; if federal funds were available the project would receive 65% federal funding, and the state would only have to come up with 35%

--Montana Veterans Home budget was based on 40 nursing home beds and 75 domiciliary beds

--no money included in budget for care of for 50 additional veterans--but don't expect the facility to be operational until after this biennium

--FY 83 figures for running the Veterans Home have been reduced to remove pay plan:

General Fund Money:	FY 82	562,334	FY 83	630,466
(includes 9% pay plan)				

General Fund Money:	FY 82	486,575	FY 83	476,033
(without pay plan)				

--The original proposal as shown in the green fiscal analyst's budget book, page 444, indicates that:

For FY 82 the general fund would pick up 45.2% of the total cost of care at the Veterans Home

For FY 83 the general fund would pick up 47.6% of the total cost of care at the Veterans Home

ABOVE FIGURES DO NOT INCLUDE COST
OF CARING FOR 50 NEW NURSING
PATIENTS.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION - Washington, D.C.

Veterans Benefits Counsellor - 202-872-1151:

--this fellow was not familiar with the VA program which subsidizes benefits for veterans in state run veterans' homes

However, with respect to other benefits:

VA provides benefits to veterans needing nursing home care and domiciliary care as follows:

In Nursing Homes:

--after hospital care can be transferred to a private nursing home at VA expense for up to 6 months--this applies to any veteran

--from home--can receive nursing home benefits at VA expense for up to 6 months--but is a lower priority than those who have been hospitalized--this applies to any veteran

--a veteran with a service-connected disability is eligible to have the VA provide nursing home care in a private nursing home for any length of time--6 month limit does not apply when there is a service connected disability

Note: the veteran does not have to be totally permanently disabled

Domiciliary VA Benefits:

--this is a self-care program and is meant for people who are able to take care of themselves

--for vets with a permanent service-connected disability including those receiving VA disability benefits

--for vets without a service connected disability if the vet is unable to earn a living

--vets are eligible for full domiciliary care in a state or private domiciliary facility if he has less than \$415 per month for his own use

VA Contracts with Nursing Homes

The VA holds contracts with nursing homes throughout the state to provide nursing home care to eligible veterans.

VA benefits available to veterans for nursing home care

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION - Washington, D.C. .

Central Office 202-393-4120 Craig Ramey

Referred to: Jim Kelly or 202-389-3692

Dr. James Fozard

Jim Kelly:

VA contracts with private nursing homes to provide skilled or intermediate care:

--up to 6 months full benefits for vets with non service connected disability

--unlimited full benefits for vets with service-connected disability

VA subsidies to State Veterans Homes:

VA participates in 2 ways:

- (1) Construction: will participate up to 65% of the cost of construction, remodeling, additions, etc.
- (2) Per diem: will pay a per diem rate for veterans in state veterans homes--one rate for nursing care and one for domiciliary care

---do not pay per diem for spouses

VA Participation in Construction:

Rita Frampton 202 389-3854

--any state may apply for VA participation up to 65% when constructing, adding to, remodeling, etc., a state veterans home

--there's a waiting list at the present time--if an application came in today (4/9/81) the funds would probably be available in 1985

--matching money is not available after completion of the project

--Montana is not presently on the waiting list

Department of Institutions - Curt Chisholm

The Department of Institutions did not ask for additional nursing home beds during the normal budgetary process. They are on a federal waiting list and funds might be available by 1985. However, Jack Moore decided it would be better not to wait for the federal money and decided to seek 100% state funds instead.