

HOUSE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES  
March 17, 1983

The House Labor and Employment Relations Committee convened at 12:30 p.m. on March 17, 1983, in Room 224K of the State Capitol, with Chairman J. Melvin Williams presiding and all members present except Reps. Pavlovich and Seifert, who were absent. Chairman Williams opened the meeting to an executive session on the following bills.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

HOUSE BILL 902 Chairman Williams mentioned this would amount to about 265 layoffs in state government. He said with all the unemployment we have now we don't need anymore. He felt this was the wrong approach to the pay plan for the public employees. He suggested an amendment on page 15, line 6, to strike "\$750,000" and insert "\$12,720,000." He said there have been 1100 layoffs in state government in the past few years and most of the needed streamlining should have been accomplished.

Rep. Hannah asked about terminology. He said from listening to the testimony he had the idea that layoffs meant not filling positions that became empty.

Rep. Dozier reminded him that it takes a certain number of people to properly run the government and so certain positions needed to be refilled.

Rep. Farris mentioned that sometimes needed services are curtailed because of these cuts - she mentioned the loss of the 7 medical social workers at SRS.

Rep. Smith said he didn't know if we had the money but one way or the other we would pick up the tab and there are too many unemployed now.

Rep. Harper spoke for the amendment. He said he didn't know where the money was coming from but he didn't like to have people laid off just because the legislature didn't appropriate enough money to fund the given pay increase. He said this wasn't straight forward and would put some people in a tough position.

Rep. Thoft said he felt the amendment appropriate but he had no idea where they would get the money, unless they knew where there was more money that the appropriation committee wasn't aware of.

Rep. Harper moved to adopt the amendment of changing \$750,000 to \$12,720,000. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried with 11 voting yes, 4 voting no (Ellerd, Hannah, Jones, Thoft), 2 absent (Pavlovich and Seifert).

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Rep. Dozier moved the bill AS AMENDED DO PASS and this motion carried with 10 voting yes, 5 no (Ellerd, Hannah, Driscoll, Jones, Thoft), and 2 absent (Pavlovich and Seifert).

HOUSE BILL 904 Rep. Addy moved to TABLE this bill. This motion carried with Rep. Driscoll voting no and Reps. Seifert and Pavlovich absent.

SENATE BILL 273 Rep. Smith reminded the committee that this is one of the four bills that were offered by industry to help keep the employment offices of the state open if labor organizations were willing to do something also.

Chairman Williams had Miss Brodsky, the researcher, explain a suggested amendment. This is Exhibit 1 of the minutes. Chairman Williams then had David Hunter, Dept. of Labor and Industry, explain the amendment.

Mr. Hunter said this amends the indexing down to 10% which is the nearest whole percentage that we can get up to the amount today. We will index the benefits July 1 of each year. He said this cuts out very few people. He said the important aspect is that it does index it so we don't have people in a position where they can earn more in benefits than they do in wages.

Rep. Hannah asked what the fiscal impact would be with the amendment. Mr. Hunter said \$150,000 over the biennium.

Rep. Addy moved the amendment and the amendment carried with Rep. Driscoll voting no and absent were Reps. Pavlovich and Seifert.

Rep. Ellerd moved the bill AS AMENDED BE CONCURRED IN and this motion carried with Reps. Driscoll, McCormick and Bachini voting no and absent were Reps. Seifert and Pavlovich.

SENATE BILL 215 Rep. Ellerd moved BE CONCURRED IN.

Rep. Driscoll spoke in opposition to the bill. He said the leadership of both parties had rejected this and now we have bills to do it.

Rep. Addy spoke in opposition.

Rep. Ellerd said he didn't feel it was a serious problem. He said the one week waiting period will not cause that much hardship.

David Hunter, Dept. of Labor and Industry, was requested to respond. He said it would affect 2400 individuals which will need to wait an extra week to get their benefits. He said they don't lose any benefits. He said the federal people won't pay half of the first week of benefits if we don't have this statute. It would cost the state an extra half million.

Rep. Harper asked what the difference was in waiting for a week to get your check or losing a week at the end. You get the same amount of benefits.

The motion carried in a roll call vote with 8 voting yes, 6 voting no (Addy, Bachini, Driscoll, Farris, Harper, McCormick), and 3 absent (Dozier, Pavlovich and Seifert). Senate Bill 215 receives a BE CONCURRED IN recommendation.

SENATE BILL 210 Rep. Ellerd moved BE CONCURRED IN. The motion carried with Rep. Driscoll voting no and absent were Reps. Dozier, Seifert and Pavlovich.

Meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
J. MELVIN WILLIAMS, CHAIRMAN

Emelia A. Satre, Sec.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 273 - March 17, 1983

1. Page 1, line 20.

Strike: "with an"

Insert: ", in which his"

Following: "wage"

Insert: "was"

2. Page 1.

Following: line 20

Strike: lines 21 and 22 in their entirety

Insert: "10% of the average weekly wage calculated pursuant to  
39-51-2201(3)"