

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
TAXATION COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE SENATE

January 11, 1983

The first meeting of the Tax Committee was called to order by Chairman Pat M. Goodover on January 11, 1983 at 9:05 a.m. in Room 415, State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL 50: Senator McCallum from District 12 (Sanders County) is the sponsor of SB 50. He said the request for special license plates for 100% service-connected disabled veterans came from some veterans in Mineral County. This bill is the result of some research done by the Legislative Council. Disabled veterans now pay \$5 a license plate, and if this bill passes, they will continue to pay \$5 a plate, but personalized plates with the inscription "DV-" followed by a number assigned by the division (of motor vehicles) will be available to the disabled veterans. The cost to the state will not be much greater than the present cost of issuing plates. Senator McCallum stated that there are presently about three hundred 100% service-connected disabled veterans in Montana.

PROPOSERS

Larry Majerus of the Motor Vehicle Division stated his office would handle the proposed plates similar to the way personalized plates are handled. He said there is only one vehicle on file now with the letters "DVM," and it belongs to some veterinarian. He said that was no problem though, and they would reserve all other "DV" numbers for disabled veterans.

Bob Durkee, representing the VFW, also endorsed SB 50, saying it is a tribute to the disabled veterans which they deserve.

Tony Cumming, from the American Legion, supported SB 50 and said he has seen similar plates on cars in other states and it is impressive. It recognizes the disabled veterans.

Willis H. (Bill) Wilson also supported the bill. He is a 100% disabled veteran and also a former prisoner of war. He stated that most people who attend DAV conferences support special plates for the disabled veterans.

Frederick J. MacKintosh, representing the Disabled American Veterans, supported the bill and stated that the plates would be an honorarium for service-connected disabled veterans.

Charles Graveley, representing all Montana county treasurers and assessors, was neither supporting nor opposing the bill, but felt there might be a drafting problem. He pointed out

that the bill says "may . . . apply for" but it does not say they shall receive the plates. Cort Harrington said he would draft an amendment to clarify this.

There were no further proponents and no opponents, so questions from the committee were called for.

Senator Halligan, who is a member of VFW Post 101 in Missoula, stated he had been contacted to support something similar for disabled people (in general) and wondered if it would take another bill to accommodate handicapped people who are not veterans.

Senator Towe questioned whether we were talking about 100% service-connected disability or just disabled veterans (not necessarily service-connected).

Senator Lynch, commenting on Senator Halligan's statements, said that regarding SB 82 (which is a similar bill), he is amenable to Representative Hemstad's bill (HB 102) and thought maybe a committee bill making all of this more comprehensive was in order.

The hearing was closed on SB 50.

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL 82:

Senator Lynch pointed out that SB 82 goes a bit further than Senator McCallum's bill (SB 50) and also pointed out that Senator McCallum is the second signer on SB 82. He said some might think this matter is trivial and said only a few people are involved--there are only about 300 veterans in Montana. Nevada has plates for both disabled veterans and ex-POWs, and he added for Senator Halligan's concern that they have DAV insignia rather than stickers. He stated it would cost more money but that it should be measured because disabled veterans are entitled to it. Senator Lynch requested the taxation committee to incorporate SB 50 and SB 82 and come up with a committee bill.

Chairman Goodover then asked the witnesses testifying in support of SB 50 if it was their intent to incorporate that testimony into SB 82 as well. The witnesses responded affirmatively, and Chairman Goodover stated it was so incorporated.

Representative Neuman, District 33, was in favor of SB 82. He felt this was a step in the direction of showing our gratitude for the veterans' services.

There were no opponents to SB 82, and questions were called for from the committee.

January 11, 1983

Senator Severson stated he was a POW in Germany. He is in favor of designation for disabled veterans but not for ex-POWs. He said being a POW was a chance any soldier took if he went to war, and he didn't feel that he needed special designation.

Senator Lynch indicated that disabled veterans or ex-POWs do not have to apply for the special plates, but they would at least have the option to do so.

Senator Crippen asked if the discussion was concerning 100% service-connected disability. Senator Towe gave the following example, for clarification: Maybe a man lost an arm in the service, but he was not 100% disabled. Then he lost the other arm later, not in the service, but he would then be 100% disabled.

Senator Crippen said he liked the bill but he objected to the state mandating what local jurisdictions should do with parking fees and parking fee exemptions. The local jurisdictions should decide those matters.

Senator Elliott asked how many additional people this would cover over SB 50, whether there had been an application which would expand to POWs under Senator McCallum's bill, and what the social aspects were of separating the POWs from the rest of society.

Senator Lynch indicated there were slightly more than 100 POWs in Montana. He again pointed out that obtaining the plates would be optional and that other states which have adopted similar legislation have seen no problems with it. He didn't feel the sociological factor was involved here.

Frederick MacKintosh, who testified for SB 50 also, said there was no opposition from POWs to similar legislation in Congress, and in fact, that they have supported it. He felt the POWs should be honored in this way.

Senator Gage asked if the plates could be retained by the family of a veteran, should the veteran die (referring to new section 4 of the introduced bill). Senator Lynch thought they could be kept, but not used.

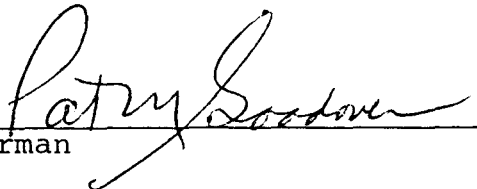
The hearing was closed on SB 82.

Chairman Goodover asked if the committee wanted to work on a bill. Senator Lynch suggested that, if that is done, provisions for all handicapped persons could be incorporated into the bill.

January 11, 1983

A subcommittee consisting of Vice-Chairman McCallum and Senators Lynch, Halligan and Towe was appointed to review SB 50 and SB 82 and come back to the taxation committee with recommendations.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.


Chairman

ROLL CALL

SENATE TAXATION

COMMITTEE

48th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1983

Date 1/11 /83

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
SENATOR GOODOVER, CHAIRMAN	✓		
SENATOR McCALLUM, VICE CHAIRMAN	✓		
SENATOR BROWN	✓		
SENATOR CRIPPEN	✓		
SENATOR ELLIOTT	✓		
SENATOR GAGE	✓		
SENATOR TURNAGE	✓		
SENATOR SEVERSON	✓		
SENATOR HAGER	✓		
SENATOR ECK	✓		
SENATOR HALLIGAN	✓		
SENATOR LYNCH	✓		
SENATOR NORMAN	✓		
SENATOR TOWE	✓		
SENATOR MAZUREK	✓		

SENATE Taxation COMMITTEE

BILL SB50
SB82

VISITORS' REGISTER

DATE 1/11/82

Please note bill no.

NAME

REPRESENTING

BILL #

(check one)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

Kern Campora

Mt. Contractors Assn.

Keith Anderson

Mt. Taxpayers Assoc.

Mayerius

Mt. Veh Division

50

☒

Bob Durkee

VFW

50/82

☒

Chark Stanley

Treasurers & Auditors

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY

WITNESS STATEMENT

Name MAC KINTOSH, FREDERICK JOHN Date 1/11/82
Address 6390 BIRDSEYE ROAD, IDELENA 443540 Support ? ☒
Phone: _____ Oppose ? _____
Representing DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS Amend ? _____
Which Bill ? H50 § 82
Comments:

Please leave prepared statement with the committee secretary.

WITNESS STATEMENT

Name Willis H. Wilson

Address 3000 Villard

Phone: _____

Representing VFW-POW

Which Bill ? 50-82

Comments: _____

Date 1-11-83

Support ? ☒

Oppose ? _____

Amend ? _____

home - said at VFW
office - or at VFW
- means.

3-0732
5417
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Please leave prepared statement with the committee secretary.

Senator _____

Seat # _____

MONTANA STATE SENATE
TAXATION COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT

January 11, 1983

The following Taxation Committee members are appointed
to the subcommittee to review Senate Bills 50 and 82 and
report back to the Taxation Committee with recommendations:

Senator McCallum, Chairman
Senator Lynch
Senator Halligan
Senator Severson
Senator Towe

Pat M. Goodover
Chairman, Taxation Committee