

MINUTES OF MEETING
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE SENATE

March 12, 1983

The meeting of the Local Government Committee was called to order by Chairman McCallum on March 12, 1983 at 12:30 p.m. in Room 405, State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: All eleven Senators were present for the meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 798: Rep. Kathleen McBride, District 85, said that this bill was the result of the interest and commitment from the First Special Session of last year to help local governments run the welfare departments. She explained the operation of the service in the counties after the passage of HB 13 from that session. They did not want all the costs to be pushed on to the local level. The proposal is to continue the current amount of state aid to counties for welfare costs. The program was very cumbersome to administer in the counties under HB 13 and a task force was set up to work on some of the problems in HB 13. They felt that what they have in HB 798 is better. It is a county option for the state administration of welfare programs. The state funds the cost through a mill levy and general fund appropriation. If the mill levy is under 12 mills, this will be increased to 12 mills in 1988. A county may opt out of the system at any time for the county medical and county general assistance programs. It is a contract of the same policy set up under HB 13 at the Special Session. She went through the bill section by section explaining certain areas. The county can opt for the state to totally take over the welfare system or they can opt to retain the county medical assistance and the county general assistance.

Referring to page 5, line 16, she explained that this was an amendment made in the House. In section 7, the levy is to be 12 mills. If under 12 mills in 1982 they can stay at that level until 1988. Also, if a county is to take advantage of this particular bill, they must initiate a workfare program. The remainder of the sections change the language of who is in authority of the welfare if the county opts to have the state take over.

PROPOSERS: John LaFaver, Director of Social and Rehabilitation Services, was in favor of HB 798 but said it was hard to get a consensus between small and large counties. They have been working on this bill for over a year. There would be \$4 million to partially defray the expenses. House Bill 13 was set up with a sunset clause for the end of this year. It would be the same amount of money but in a more compatible way and HB 798 is a product of that year's work. For those that opt in it would eventually work into a 12 mill levy. He was strongly in favor of HB 798.

Don Judge, representing the Montana State AFL-CIO, said they were neither a proponent or opponent but had a problem with some language in the bill that they did not catch while the bill was in the House. The current law says that these people receive the prevailing wage on workfare and they support the state law. He proposed an amendment on page 19, line 19, following "at", strike "minimum wage or may pay a recipient". The attorney general's opinion said that the prevailing

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wage must be paid. If the county is paying the minimum wage then that is the prevailing wage for that county. He felt some regular employees may be replaced with workfare people if they did not have to pay the higher prevailing wage.

Beverly Gibson, Montana Association of Counties read her written testimony, which is attached to the minutes.

Rep. Jay Fabrega, District #44 said that HB 798 would eliminate problems and costs that are present in grant-in-aid programs. The Department of SRS is already paying some of the salaries partially and some in full. This bill is optional to the counties and believed the counties will opt for it.

Norman Waterman, representing the Lewis and Clark County Welfare Department, felt that this would be to the advantage of both the county and state. It would save a lot of expense and believed it would be a much cleaner program. All of the urban counties do support this.

George Bousliman, Urban Coalition, was strongly in support of the bill.

Bob Palmer, County Commissioner from Missoula County, said that Missoula County unanimously supports this bill. He hoped that the Committee would look at the apparent conflict that Don Judge spoke to. This has been an effort of all the counties working across the state with MACO and urged the committee's support.

Don Peoples, Butte-Silver Bow, felt that welfare is a societal problem. Those in an urban county find that their costs are higher than other counties throughout the state. He felt that the welfare program in Montana is predominantly a state program and strongly supported the bill.

Jim Greer, Yellowstone County Welfare Department, felt it would be a great benefit to Yellowstone County for a variety of reasons. Ninety five percent of the rules and regulations really come down from Federal mandate and the counties have no say in this. The number one recommendation of the committee was that it be a state managed program and urged the adoption of HB 798.

Harold McLaughlin, Cascade County Welfare Department, said they have been unable to meet their obligations. They have close to 300 on the program that are working the workfare program. No one individual performs any one project more than one or two days at a time. He was in support of the bill.

John Wilkinson, Chairman of the Lewis and Clark County Commissioners, felt that no bill is perfect and this one is not. This is, however, the result of a lot of work of a lot of counties. We are asking taxpayers to pay costs that are totally unnecessary. They believe that HB 798 goes very much in the direction of alleviating some of those problems to the taxpayers.

OPPONENTS: Larry Persinger, Southwest Building Trades Council, Butte, was opposed to the amendment concerning counties being able to pay

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workfare participants minimum wage rather than the prevailing wage. Minimum wage is not the way to help counties. He urged the committee to vote against this amendment to HB 798.

Sharon Donaldson, AFSCME, opposed the amendment to HB 798 deleting prevailing wage as she felt they may substitute workfare workers in county jobs. They believe that the current law is sufficient.

DISCUSSION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 798: Sen. Fuller asked what was the figure that the state has to pick up. Rep. McBride said it is about \$4 million per year as allocated last year. He asked if the bill addresses the counties that opt in - what happens to the workers? Rep. McBride said currently, those workers are under the Dept. of SRS. The rest of the people are already state employees and referred to page 11, line 8. Sen. Conover said that the only part that a county could retain is the county general assistance and the county medical assistance. The other programs are state and federally funded. In other words, the county commissioners better be darn sure what they are doing when they decide on this program. Rep. McBride said that the bill has a great deal of flexibility, but they had better make a careful and deliberate study before they decide. This bill is designed to take care of any problems that come up in the next two years. Sen. Conover wanted to know if this was within the 55 mill levy or above. Chairman McCallum said it is in the poor fund and that is above the 55 mill levy.

Sen. Thomas asked where the \$4 million comes from. Mr. Bousliman said the \$4 million is put into the executive budget. Whether this bill passes or not, \$4 million is going to be spent, whether you go to 798 or stay under HB 13. The 12% will only be for the participating counties.

Sen. Marbut, referring to page 4, lines 12 and 13, said that it says the county opts on a "permanent and forever basis" with the exception of the county general and county medical assistance. Sen. Marbut referred to page 4, lines 2 through 9 and said he assumed that the rent can escalate along with other rents. Rep. McBride pointed out that the language does read "fair rental value". Sen. Marbut asked if the state needed more space would the county have to provide it? Rep. McBride said it may be the case that the state would not need all the space that the county had been using. The question was asked if page 11, lines 9-16 conflicts with page 5 where it sets up an advisory council. Rep. McBride said the purpose of the advisory board is to provide a liaison between the county and the SRS.

Sen. Van Valkenburg said he had the feeling that there would be three or four counties supporting this. He felt that transients in other counties would be told to go to these participating counties where they would be taken care of by the state. Judith Carlson said that is a matter of projection but they would hope that wouldn't happen.

Lee Tickell, Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, said that currently, any transient coming through the state is a responsibility of the state so there would be no change in that. There would be little change in the current situation.

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In closing, Rep. McBride thanked the committee for their patience and urged their support.

The hearing on HB 798 was closed.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 495: Rep. Tom Hannah, District 67, said that this is a real problem but there is a simple solution to it. The attorney general says it is unconstitutional to remove a judge if that judge has been appointed. There is currently no term under which a city judge is appointed. Under this bill, if a city wishes to appoint a city judge, they will appoint him for a term of four years, which is the same as an elected judge. He felt the attorney general's opinion forces the issue and this brings it into continuity.

There were no proponents or opponents.

DISCUSSION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 495: Sen. Marbut thought the bill said the judge will serve for four years whenever he is appointed, such as filling in for a deceased judge - what happens then? Sen. Crippen said it is an elected office and it didn't follow the elected person; it follows the elected office. The appointed judge would fill the remainder of that term. Chairman McCallum said that a police judge is for an indefinite term. Would this make his term four years. The attorney general said he is appointed for life in the absence of a term. This bill says that rather than appoint them for life they would be appointed for four years.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 632: Rep. Brent Bliss, District #10, sponsor of the bill said if there is not a nominated candidate the district will not be required to hold an election. This would save work in the clerk and recorder's office and save the fire district some money.

PROPOSERS: Bill Romine, representing the County Clerks and Recorders, said they wholeheartedly support the bill. It makes little sense to have an election when there are no candidates. These elections don't usually generate a great deal of campaigning or interest. He hoped the committee would concur in the bill.

There were no further proponents and no opponents.

DISCUSSION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 632: Sen. Conover said he was in full concurrence with this bill. Sen. Hammond asked if this would allow writeins? Mr. Romine said that is the way it is now. In this bill they would have to be appointed. Sen. Fuller wondered if the committee didn't kill a bill concerning appointment of the trustees by the county commissioners. Bill Romine said that bill took away the election process completely. Rep. Bliss said that although it only concerns fire districts, it would save the taxpayers some money in not having to hold an election.

Dave Bohyer, Legislative Council, pointed out a drafting error on page 1, line 18 and suggested an amendment to take care of this. It does not change the content or intent of the bill. A copy of the proposed amendment is attached. Sen. Thomas MOVED ADOPTION OF THE AMENDMENT. MOTION CARRIED. Sen. Thomas MOVED HB 632 AS AMENDED, BE CONCURRED IN.

MOTION CARRIED with Sen. Ochsner voting "no". (See Committee Report for Amendment).

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 715: Rep. Steve Waldron, District #97, said this bill allows local governments to amend their budgets because of unanticipated revenues, shortfalls in revenue or savings. It makes it difficult when there is no mechanism for adjusting the budget downward or upward. There are also some protections afforded in this bill and he explained subsection (4).

PROPOSERS: George Bousliman, Urban Coalition, said that the main reason for this bill is when city and county budgets are set, city and county commissioners don't have the knowledge that conditions may change in the future. It just gives them the authorization to adjust budgets up or down. The same thing can happen at the local level as happened at the state level. He urged the committee's support.

Mike Young, City of Missoula, said this bill would permit them to appropriate for revenue shortfalls. The other bill discussed the other day allows them to shift funds. This bill would permit the governing body to change its budget by allowing for a constitutional amendment by public input. It would not allow the counties to misuse this authorization. Rep. Waldron had emphasized the public notice and public hearing in the bill and they wanted to reemphasize that. This would give them some flexibility.

Bill Verwolf, City of Helena and City of Billings, said this applies to all classes of funds in municipalities, including the general fund and enterprise funds. Under the current statutes they do not have the authorization to make changes during the year. Mr. Verwolf gave some examples of increases or reductions to the budget. In order to take advantage of some of these grants from private individuals for certain projects, they need this authorization rather than having to wait for the next budget to include them.

Howard Schwartz, Missoula County, referred to line 11 and 12, page 2, and was in support of this bill.

John Wilkinson, Lewis and Clark County Commissioners, said they didn't anticipate delinquencies in their revenue and they are running out of money. They need to have the authority to amend the budget down. That is the main reason Lewis and Clark County is in support of the bill.

OPPOSERS: Dennis Burr, Montana Taxpayers' Association, said in an area where tax revenues have not come in and it is necessary to readjust the budget he thought it is a legitimate thing to do. Many units of local government have removed Burlington Northern from their tax roles because they are paying taxes under protest. His suggestion was to strike line 7 on page 2, "unanticipated revenues are received". This would allow them to amend their budgets down but not upward. He also wanted line 14 on page 4 stricken, which is the same language. He felt the bill may have to give cities the right to increase their budgets because of receipt of Federal funds.

There were no further proponents and no opponents.

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DISCUSSION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 715: Sen. Crippen asked Mr. Bousliman to comment on the Montana Taxpayers' suggestions. Mr. Bousliman said the budget director can adopt budget amendments. There is language that says "if there is an unanticipated emergency and strict conditions exist, a budget amendment can be approved". There are bonafide reasons for a city or county to lower or increase their budget. He would like to work with the Montana Taxpayers and the committee to address this.

Sen. Crippen, referring to grants from a foundation, etc., felt this is probably a one-time thing and felt that the Taxpayers had a legitimate gripe.

Sen. Story felt that the budget amendments at the state level aren't working as well as everyone believes. Sen. Van Valkenburg said this is giving a legislative body, not an executive, the right to amend the budget. That is quite a difference.

Sen. Marbut asked, referring to page 5, lines 7-11, if the passage of HB 859 would change this bill. Rep. Waldron said there would be no effect because that amends sections of the law. This is a new law. It only affects specific sections of the law that are on the books now. Rep. Waldron said the county commissioners, city council or city commission are the legislative bodies. Our legislative body can make amendments to the budget and felt it is most important to give them authorization to change their budget.

The hearing was closed on HB 715.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 732: Rep. Hal Harper, District #30, said this bill would repeal sections of the law that are confusing or duplicative. These were established in the early 1970's and have since been replaced or superceded.

PROPOSERS: George Bousliman, Urban Coalition, said there are sections in the MCA that tells counties how to change their forms of government. There are conflicting areas in the law and felt it is important to have clarity in the law.

John Wilkinson, Lewis and Clark County, said they are very confusing processes and wasted lots of time going through the codes trying to find all the sections that pertain to a certain thing and felt it is a simple housekeeping measure.

There were no further proponents and no opponents.

DISCUSSION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 732: Sen. Van Valkenburg questioned the repealing of 7-3-2105 - that is not covered by other portions of the law. Rep. Harper said it is in conflict and it would be replaced by two other provisions. Sen. Marbut said he assumed there are other sections in the statutes that take care of these that are being repealed.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 859: Rep. Steve Waldron, also sponsor of this bill, said it is a clean-up bill. He said this is an attempt to standardize notice requirements.

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PROPOSERS: Bill Romine, County Clerks and Recorders, said he did not appear in the House on this bill. They feel that a more standardized procedure would be very beneficial rather than numerous different types. They thought it was a good bill and a good concept.

Howard Schwartz, Missoula, supported the bill. He had been asked to voice the support of John Wilkinson, Lewis and Clark County Commissioners and Dennis Burr of the Montana Taxpayers' Association as they had to leave for another meeting.

There were no further proponents and no opponents.

DISCUSSION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 859: Sen. Marbut was concerned about the number of days being changed. Mr. Schwartz said it was not intended to change the number of days. Perhaps there could be a section setting out how many times the notice has to be published.

In closing, Rep. Waldron said there are some areas where you want longer notices, however, if the form is consistent this would be a great help.

Sen. Crippen said some of these notices were set up because of court cases. Sen. Story said he certainly didn't want to standardize the certified mailing and felt that Mr. Schwartz is on the right track. Rep. Waldron said this bill would make it easier to find the notice requirements in the statutes.

Sen. Story wondered how many sections they are talking about. Rep. Waldron said there are dozens and dozens of them and there is no consistency in any of them.

MEETING ADJOURNED 2:30 p.m.


SENATOR GEORGE MCCALLUM, CHAIRMAN

(Type in committee members names and have 50 printed to start.)

ROLL CALL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

COMMITTEE

48th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1983

Date 3/12/83

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
OCHSNER	✓		
CRIPPEN	✓		
HAMMOND	✓		
STORY	✓		
MARBUT	✓		
CONOVER	✓		
FULLER	✓		
THOMAS	✓		
VAN VALKENBURG	✓		
BOYLAN	✓		
McCALLUM	✓		

COMMITTEE ON

DATE

3/12/83

Local Government

VISITORS' REGISTER

NAME	REPRESENTING	BILL #	Check One	
			Support	Oppose
James C. Green	Yellowstone Co / SRS	798	X	
Mike Young	City of Victoria	715	✓	
Beverly Gibson	M.A.C.	715 859 798	✓	
George J. Boushman	Urban Coalition	798 715 732	✓ ✓	
LEE J. TICKELL	S.R.S.	798	✓	
Dennis Burr	MONTANA TAXPAYERS ASSOC	715		✓
Anna M. Mearns	L & C Co. Wolfson	798	✓	
Bill Verwoert	City of Helena	715 798 859	✓ ✓ ✓	
John W. Winkerson	Lewis & Clark	859	✓	
Dwight Mackay	Yellowstone	"	✓	
DAVE GORTON	YELLOWSTONE COUNTY	798	X	
Howard Schwartz	Missoula	798 715 859	✓	
HAROLD McLaughlin	CASCADE County DPW	798		
Don Judge	MT STATE AFL-CIO	#798	Amend	
Bill Romine	Clerks & Records	#B 632	✓	
Harry Ruzicka	Southwest Building Trades	#H 798		X
JOHN H. CARLSON	SRS	798	✓	
Sharon Donaldson	AFSCME, AFL-CIO	798		X
Don Pappeler	Battle 5, 140. Bon	798	✓	

HOUSE BILL 798

- HELD:
1. Section 53-3-304, MCA, requires all participants in the "workfare" program to be paid, i.e. receive benefits, as the prevailing rate of wages paid by the county for similar work.
 2. The prevailing wage is the most frequent or commonly used rate of pay.
 3. The county may pay the minimum wage only if similar work has generally been performed for the minimum wage or if the county has never had similar work performed.
 4. To determine what is similar work the county should classify the work to be performed under the program with other work closely resembling the type currently being done for the county.

24 January 1983

Without the prevailing wage provision, counties have an economic incentive to replace regular workers with welfare recipients. Although we sympathize with local government budget crunch, receiving a lower wage is unjust and unfair to regular employees and to workfare participants.

We urge you to remove this amendment to House Bill 798.

Thank you.



JAMES W. MURRY
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Box 1176, Helena, Montana

ZIP CODE 59624
406/442-1708

TESTIMONY OF DON JUDGE ON HOUSE BILL 798 BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT -- MARCH 12, 1983

I am Don Judge, representing the Montana State AFL-CIO. I am here today to speak on House Bill 798, which allows county commissioners the option of transferring authority of the county Department of Welfare to the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

The Montana State AFL-CIO does not have a position on the transfer of that authority, but we are very strongly opposed to an amendment to the bill which would allow counties to pay minimum wage to welfare recipients who are enrolled in "workfare" programs. Current law requires that these workers receive the prevailing wage, and we support that law.

While the Montana State AFL-CIO does not support the concept of workfare, believing as stated by the National AFL-CIO in November, 1981, that "Forcing people into so-called "workfare" does not make them wage earners or help get them off welfare. It will neither relieve the American people from supporting them nor increase their self-esteem or employability. The way we value work in our society is through work."

However, since there are county workfare programs in Montana, we would like to see that they are run in the best way possible. Members of organized labor sit on advisory councils in various counties to assist with the program. Allowing counties to pay minimum wage is definitely not the best way to run these programs. The intent of the legislature in requiring that counties pay prevailing wage was to protect regularly employed workers, prevent the undercutting of wages and prevent the exploitation of workfare participants.

During the last year, there have been some problems with workfare programs, one of which was the issue of prevailing wage versus minimum wage. John LaFaver, Director of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services requested an opinion from Attorney General Mike Greeley on the issue. The Attorney General's opinion held that:

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
March 12, 1983

Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee, for the record my name is Beverly Gibson, from the Montana Association of Counties.

The Association supports HB 798. Late last year MACo brought together a task force on welfare to study the various options for funding welfare costs, especially general assistance and county medical programs, which are paid for through the county poor fund. The members of the task force included legislators, county welfare directors, representatives of various state agencies including the Dept. of Social and Rehabilitation Services, the lieutenant governor's office, and others.

John LaFaver, director of SRS, noted the problems his agency had with auditing counties under HB 13 for the purposes of reimbursing for state grant-in-aid. The task force explored several options for funding in the next biennium, including re-enactment of HB 13, full state assumption of welfare, block grant for general assistance and county medical, and others. A consensus was reached that any variation of state reimbursement compounds current problems, regardless where the county mill levy is set. The members concluded that the most practical method of funding the program would be for a county-option for state assumption. This proposal gives flexibility to the counties to select the means they wish: to opt for state assumption, or to continue to administer their welfare programs as they do now.

Thank you.

SOUTHWEST BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL OF MONTANA

OFFICE:
CARPENTERS HALL
156 West Granite

AFFILIATED WITH
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES DEPARTMENT
OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR, C.I.O.

P. O. BOX 3243
BUTTE, MONTANA 59701



Larry Persinger, Secretary

Southwest Building Trades Council

HB798, ~~Senate Labor and Employment Relations Committee~~
Local Government

March 12, 1983

I am Larry Persinger, representing the Southwest Building Trades Council. I am here today to oppose an amendment to House Bill 798. That amendment is the one which would allow the counties to pay people performing jobs in the workfare program minimum wage rather than prevailing wage.

The legislature enacted the provision requiring prevailing wage, so that regular workers would be protected, and counties would have no financial benefit from substituting workfare participants for regular employees.

Changing the law so that counties could pay a minimum wage opens the door to potential abuse. As county budgets get tighter and tighter, counties will be looking for every way that they can pinch pennies. We are afraid that one of the ways they might try to save money is having workfare participants do the work that regular employees would do, by paying them the minimum wage.

There are 42,000 out of work in Montana. Many of them are union members and skilled crafts workers. We can foresee a situation where a skilled worker runs out of unemployment insurance, is forced onto welfare and becomes part of the workfare program. If the county could pay that worker minimum wage, what is to prevent the county from using a plumber or electrician or a carpenter to perform those kinds of jobs, while only paying them minimum wage? That would undercut wage rates and throw more people out of work, so that workfare would have the result of producing even more unemployment.

There is no doubt that counties need help, and we urge the legislature to give that help. But minimum wage for workfare is not the way to help counties. We urge you to vote against this amendment to House Bill 798.

Thank you.

Rep. Brent Bliss

District No. 10

H. B. 632

H.B. 632 provides that in an election for trustee of a rural fire district, if there are no nominated candidates, then the district will not be required to hold the election. The trustee or trustees will then be appointed by the county governing body. If there are candidates then the election would be held as usual. This would result in some money savings to the fire district and it would remove some work from the county clerk and recorders office.

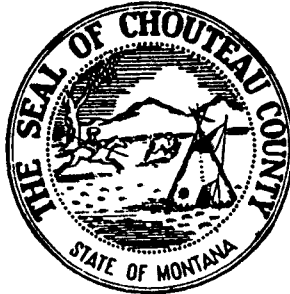
JOANNE M. PERES
COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER

DEPUTY CLERKS

Dolores Y. Morrow

JoAnn L. Johnson

Josephine J. Peters



FORT BENTON, MONTANA

RE: HB 632

Fire District Ballots for one small district, 1982:

Ballots printed	100.00
legal advertising	
(close reg. 3 x \$25.45	75.00
(notice of election	25.00
poll bks @ \$2.50	15.00
judges salary @ \$3.50	42.00
% of rent	5.00
misc. supplies	10.00
	<u>\$ 272.00</u>

These are groups of people who voluntarily give of their time to serve as trustees. They receive no pay.

Most equipment is purchased from Forest Service surplus with money they have raised through bake sales, community activities, etc. In some cases they do levy a tax against their property but is generally minimal. We have three districts. One levies 3.22, one 3.80 against their property, and one, the Big Sandy Rural District does not levy anything.

When no one files and there is, consequently nothing to print on a ballot except blank lines, it seems completely unnecessary to expend this amount of money to conduct an election. We feel that it would make sense when there are no nominations for these positions, for the present trustees to make recommendations to the board of County Commissioners, and for them to appoint members.

When a rural fire district is formed the first five trustees are appointed by the commissioners (7-33-2104) and then elections are conducted annually thereafter.

There is provision in the Hospital District laws for the Commissioner Board to appoint hospital district trustees in the event that there are no nomination petitions filed. See 7-34-2117.

There are many boards already being appointed by the commissioners - boards which handle many more tax dollars than the fire district people, i.e.:

Cemetery districts, 4 mills

Library, 3 mills (county-wide, 3 mills raises much more than 3 or 4 in a small district)

Council on Aging, 1 mill

Fair, 1 1/2

Planning Boards - receive Coal Tax funds, plus 4 mills for zoning commission and 1 mill in the county general fund (3rd class county)

Weed control, 2 mills

Other appointed boards include various S.I.D.'s, Tax appeals, health, TV districts, Refuse, mosquito, rodent - some have no limit on the amount that they may levy.

WITNESS STATEMENT

Name Bill Romine Committee On Local Gov.
Address Helena Date 3.12.83
Representing Clerks & Records Support X
Bill No. H.R. 632 Oppose _____
Amend _____

AFTER TESTIFYING, PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

1. *It makes no sense to Run an election when there are no candidates. This bill still ensures the election process when there are candidates, but at the same time allows, the county commissioners to appoint five district Trustees if there are no candidates. This will save the five districts some money, since in some cases they will not be on the ballot, and will not have to pay for their share of the election.*

3.

4.

Itemize the main argument or points of your testimony. This will assist the committee secretary with her minutes.

TESTIMONY OF SHARON DONALDSON ON HOUSE BILL 798 BEFORE THE
SENATE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS
MARCH 12, 1983

I am Sharon Donaldson, representing the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Council #9, AFL-CIO. Our members are opposed to the amendment to House Bill 798 which provides that counties may pay people participating in workfare programs minimum wage.

We support the current law which requires that counties pay the workfare participants prevailing wage for the work they perform. That means those participants receive the same wage that other workers receive for performing a particular job. This is not only fair to workfare participants, it protects regular employees from having their wages undercut as well.

Local Governments are in a real financial crisis, and we fear that there would be a temptation to eliminate regular workers, and substitute workfare workers to perform county jobs. If the counties could pay minimum wage, they could save a little money, but it would be at the expense of regular workers jobs. The current law protects their jobs and their wages. It also provides protection to workfare workers, and that is only just.

We believe the current law is a good law and should be retained.

Please vote against the amendment to House Bill 798.

Thank you.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 12

19 83

MR. **PRESIDENT**

We, your committee on **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

having had under consideration **HOUSE**

Bill No. **632**

Bliss (McCallum)

Respectfully report as follows: That **HOUSE** Bill No. **632**,
third reading copy, be amended as follows:

1. Page 1, line 16,
Strike: "or appointed"
2. Page 1, line 18.
Following: "13-1-401"
Insert: ", or appointed as provided in subsection (4) of this
section"

AND, AS SO AMENDED, BE CONCURRED IN

XXXXXX