

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
LABOR & EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE SENATE

April 12, 1983

The meeting of the Labor Committee was called to order by Chairman Gary C. Aklestad on April 12, 1983, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 404, State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: All members of the Committee were present with the exception of Senator Galt who was excused.

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 26:

Chairman Aklestad called on Senator Goodover, sponsor of Senate Joint Resolution No. 26, to explain the resolution to the Committee.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 26 requests an interim study of Montana's unemployment insurance laws and requires a report of the findings of the study to the 49th legislature.

Senator Goodover stated that this resolution is a result of the activity of the Labor Committee on House Bill No. 174. There have been many problems in the unemployment insurance program, and the Committee should try to find out between now and the next session what they can do to alleviate the situation. He stated that it is important that the funds be used for benefits and not for capital improvements.

There has been a standing committee that has been in existence over the years--an advisory council. We should have them look at this seriously to try to get some answers and get it prioritized in two years. We should try to remedy some problems instead of being stuck in the middle and not knowing the answers. Answers would help to set a pattern for the future in order that the Committee would not become involved in a confrontation.

PROPOSERS OF SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 26:

Robert Holding of Missoula, representing the Montana Wood Products Association, stated that they support the resolution.

Mr. Holding stated that he is on the Advisory Council. The Council is made up of three employers, three employees, and three members from the public at large. They meet on a quarterly basis to advise the Commissioners and make recommendations on unemployment compensation problems. He urged the Committee to make use of the Advisory Council. They are funded from FUTA tax. He urged passage of Senate Joint Resolution No. 26.

Forrest H. Boles, representing the Montana Chamber of Commerce, stated that they support Senate Joint Resolution No. 26. Mr. Boles also serves on the Advisory Council. He feels it is important that they look at the whole system of taxation and benefits during the next interim. He stated that the Council does have some good services that could be provided.

George Allen, representing the Montana Retail Association, stated that they support Senate Joint Resolution No. 26. They feel it is a step in the right direction. He told the Committee that there are many people with expertise who would be willing to donate their services in order to come up with a workable situation.

Jim Hughes, representing Mountain Bell, stated that they support Senate Joint Resolution No. 26, and he agreed with the proponents' testimony.

OPPONENTS TO SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 26: None were present.

QUESTIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE ON SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 26:

Senator Blaylock stated that he doesn't have any faith that this Committee would get anything done by an interim study. They just have to make sure that the fund stays solvent.

Senator Blaylock further stated that House Bill No. 174 should not have been killed.

Senator Lynch would like to know how many employers don't pay unemployment insurance contributions and how Senate Bill No. 277 will work out.

Senator Lynch wondered how many people they could pick up, how much it would cost, and he would like to find out what other states are doing.

Senator Blaylock stated that they could find out quickly how much money was spent. He did not think having a study is giving any impetus to put it through the legislature.

Senator Keating asked if there had been a comprehensive study done on taxation and unemployment insurance in Montana in the last few years.

Robert Holding stated that there had not been any study done recently.

Senator Lynch stated that he felt some research should be done to find out what options would be available.

Senator Gage asked if they hadn't gotten into trouble insofar as they had increased benefits.

Robert Holding stated that Montana is one of the higher states in benefits and one of the higher states in tax base. The current base is \$8,200. It increases \$200 a year.

Senator Goodover stated in closing that the Committee would want the advice and counsel of the Advisory Council as well as the expertise of those volunteers as suggested by George Allen as well as anyone else within the state who could offer information so they could do something from a point of knowledge.

Senator Goodover then moved that Senate Joint Resolution No. 26 Do Pass. On a voice vote, the Committee voted 5-2 that SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 26 DO PASS.

Senator Goodover will carry Senate Joint Resolution No. 26 on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.



Senator Gary C. Aklestad, Chairman

ROLL CALL

LABOR

COMMITTEE

48th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1983

Date 4/12/83

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STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

April 12, 19 83

MR. **PRESIDENT:**

We, your committee on **LABOR & EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS**

having had under consideration **SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION** Bill No. **26**

Respectfully report as follows: That **SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION** Bill No. **26**

DO PASS

H.C.

DATE APRIL 12, 1983

COMMITTEE ON LABOR

VISITORS' REGISTER

[illegible]

APRIL 12, 1983

LABOR

VISITORS' REGISTER

[illegible]

APRIL 12, 1983

1. ABOR

VISITORS' REGISTER

[illegible]

(This sheet to be used by those testifying on a bill.)

NAME: BOB HELDING DATE: 7-12-83

ADDRESS: MISSOULA, MT.

PHONE: 251-2891

REPRESENTING WHOM? MONTANA WOOD PRODUCTS ASSOC.

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: SSR 26

DO YOU: SUPPORT? ☒ AMEND? ☐ OPPOSE? ☐

COMMENT:

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME: F.H. BOLES DATE: APRIL 12, 1983

ADDRESS: ~~PO~~ BOX 1730 HELENA

PHONE: _____

REPRESENTING WHOM? MONTANA CHAMBER

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: SJR 26

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

COMMENT: THE MONTANA CHAMBER SUPPORTS THE STUDY
OF THE U.C. SYSTEM IN MONTANA. WE ARE ESPECIALLY
INTERESTED IN ANY CHANGES THAT MIGHT BE SUBMITTED
FOR THE TAXATION OF EMPLOYERS TO MAINTAIN THE
U.C. TRUST FUND AND IN CONCERT WITH THAT ANY
REVIEW OR CHANGE IN THE BENEFIT PROGRAM.
WE SUGGEST THAT THE RESOLUTION INCLUDE REFERENCES
TO THE EMPLOYMENT SECURITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
ALREADY IN PLACE AND THAT THIS COUNCIL HAVE DIRECT
INPUT TO ANY INTERIM COMMITTEE THAT MIGHT
BE APPOINTED TO STUDY THE U.C. SYSTEM IN OUR
STATE.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

(This sheet to be used by those testifying on a bill.)

NAME: George E. Allen DATE: 4-12-83

ADDRESS: Helena Mt.

PHONE: 442-3388

REPRESENTING WHOM? MT. Retail Co.

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: SVR 26

DO YOU: SUPPORT? ☒ AMEND? ☐ OPPOSE? ☐

COMMENT: We support this study, we have
experts in this field who's company will
donate their services and expenses.

Every one who heard all the pros and cons
will agree there is an fairness in our present
law. We really need this study.

if we use business expenses there
should be little or no cost to the state

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.