

HOUSE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

48th LEGISLATURE

SPECIAL SESSION I

Rep. Mel Williams - Chairman

Rep. Hal Harper

Rep. Bob Dozier - Vice Chairman

Rep. Tom Jones

Rep. Kelly Addy

Rep. Lloyd (Mac) McCormick

Rep. Robert Bachini

Rep. Ron Miller

Rep. Jan Brown

Rep. Bob Pavlovich

Rep. Jerry Driscoll

Rep. Carl Seifert

Rep. Bob Ellerd

Rep. Clyde Smith

Rep. Carol Farris

Rep. Bob Thoft

Rep. Tom Hannah

ROLL CALL

HOUSE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

48th LEGISLATIVE SESSION, 1983 - SPECIAL SESSION I

Date December 16, 1983

Name																			
WILLIAMS, Mel - Chairman	P																		
DOZIER, Bob - Vice Chair.	Ex.																		
ADDY, Kelly	P																		
BACHINI, Robert	Ex.																		
BROWN, Jan	P																		
DRISCOLL, Jerry	P																		
MILLER, Bob	P																		
FARRIS, Carol	P																		
HANNAH, Tom	Ex.																		
HARPER, Hal	P																		
JONES, Tom	P																		
McCormick, Lloyd (Mac)	P																		
MILLER, Ron	P																		
PAVLOVICH, Bob	P																		
SEIFERT, Carl	P																		
SMITH, Clyde	P																		
THOFT, Bob	Ex.																		

STATUS SHEET

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

48th Legislature - SPECIAL SESSION I

Bill No.	Subject matter	Date In	Sponsor	Hearing Date	Committee Action	Date Out
HJR 1	Requesting of an interim study of Montana's Unemployment insurance trust fund laws to examine alternative means of eliminating the funds deficit and establishing a system of long-term solvency for the fund.	12-15-83	Williams	12-16-83	DO PASS	12-16-83

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
December 16, 1983

A meeting of the House Labor and Employment Relations Committee was held on Friday, December 16, 1983 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 420 of the State Capitol. With Chairman Rep. Mel Williams presiding, all members were present except Reps. Bachini, Thoft, and Dozier, who were excused. HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1 was heard and EXECUTIVE ACTION was taken on HJR 1.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION I

The hearing was opened on HJR 1. The sponsor, REP. FRANCIS BARDANOUE, was unable to attend the hearing and House Speaker REP. DAN KEMMIS presented the resolution on his behalf. Rep. Kemmis explained that the resolution was drafted as a result of the Unemployment Trust Fund being in a deficit situation and going deeper in. The Interim Finance Committee had requested that the subject be added to the call of the Special Session; however, the majority party in the Senate informed the House that they wouldn't be interested in dealing with the issue during the Special Session. Rep. Kemmis stressed that he felt the Legislature had an important role to play in drawing all forces together and coming up with a workable solution. This approach (use of an interim study committee) was successful with the veterans preference issue. He submitted that a mechanism was necessary to focus public attention and intelligence on the issue and the interim subcommittee was by far the best way to do that. If the Legislature didn't approve of an interim subcommittee, he suspected that the Executive branch would go ahead with its own study, and he said he would rather have the Legislature directly involved. He pointed out that Rep. Bardanoue had sponsored an appropriations bill to fund the interim subcommittee at \$15,000. He explained that a separate interim subcommittee would probably be appointed to deal with the issue rather than using an existing one.

MR. JIM MURRY, Executive Secretary of the Montana State AFL-CIO, spoke up in support of the resolution. The AFL-CIO opposed consideration of the problems of the fund during the Special Session because they felt the issue was much too complex to try to arrive at a solution in just a few days. He pointed out that much consideration had been given to the issue in the past session and it was not resolved. They support the resolution because it is the objective and reasonable way to approach the problem. The AFL-CIO would be in a position to come before the meetings to dramatize the plight of the unemployed of the State and this he felt needed to be considered when looking at the problem. He said the AFL-

CIO was aware that there was a problem: the Main Street merchants have been picking up an unfair portion of the tax, and they were conscious of the problems with the deficit employers as well. He asked that the workers not be requested to make greater and greater sacrifices at this time. He expressed hope that in 1985 there would be a solution available for the problem.

MR. PHIL STROPE, a lobbying industry representative, then rose in support of the resolution.

EILEEN ROBBINS, Montana Nurses Association, rose in support of the resolution.

DAVE HUNTER, Commissioner of Labor, spoke. He stated that the Administration welcomed a study of the problem and they felt that the interim subcommittee would help accomplish addressing it.

There were NO OPPONENTS to HJR 1.

REP. KEMMIS CLOSED. He stressed that the one segment of society that had been slower in coming to a clearer awareness of its situation was small business. He felt that some kind of catalyzing force was needed to get them involved, and the subcommittee would fill such a role.

QUESTIONS were then asked. In response to Rep. Ellerd, REP. KEMMIS explained that the Legislative Council would determine the standing committees from which the interim subcommittee would be chosen. The committees might include the Labor Committee, Appropriations Committee, and the Business and Industry Committee. The Speaker of the House and the Committee on Committees would then go to those standing committees and select four members each to assign to the interim subcommittee. There would be an equal representation of both parties on the subcommittee.

REP. ELLERD wanted to know if there would be any outside representation on the subcommittee. Rep. Kemmis replied that only members of the Legislature would sit on the subcommittee; however, there would be much representation of the concerned parties from the private sector in the form of testimony at the subcommittee meetings.

The HEARING WAS CLOSED on HJR 1.

The Committee then went into EXECUTIVE SESSION to consider HJR 1. REP. ADDY MOVED that the resolution DO PASS. Rep.

Jan Brown seconded the motion. Discussion.

REP. SEIFERT rose in opposition to the motion. He felt there was enough information available at present that if the Special Session wanted to act on the problem, it could be done. He supported addressing the problem during the Special Session.

REP. ELLERD said he would be opposed to the resolution because he didn't believe interim study committees were effective enough.

REP. HARPER pointed out that without the guidance of the interim study committee which had researched the veterans preference issue, the Special Session would have been lost. He added that many possible remedies for the problem had already been looked at, but he felt that in order to address the issue properly the first step would be to begin with a study. Also, in order to avoid having to pay the additional interest back to the federal government, all of the businesses in the State would have to pay all their employee taxes in one week, he estimated.

REP. ADDY agreed with Rep. Seifert's position, but pointed out that at present there was no consensus and the study committee could help bring people together to achieve this. He also agreed with Rep. Ellerd that study committees had an uphill battle, but the Special Session had focused State-wide attention on the problem and the committee would be starting with this advantage. He felt some definite proposals could be brought to the 1985 session from the study committee.

REP. SMITH said the problem was deep and involved and needed more study.

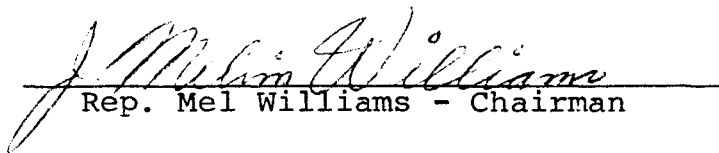
REP. DRISCOLL said he didn't feel all the information was out, and was in support of the resolution. He submitted that the deficit in the fund could not be picked up by the deficit employers in one year or many of them would go bankrupt.

REP. JONES said he believed the problem needed studying: the Main Street merchant is the one who cashes those checks.

The QUESTION was called for; MOTION CARRIED 12 - 5, with Reps. Ellerd, Hannah, Seifert, Jones, and Thoft opposed;

see absentee votes (EXHIBIT 1) and Roll Call Vote sheet.

REP. ADDY MOVED that the meeting be adjourned; MOTION CARRIED. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

  
Rep. Mel Williams - Chairman

DA

no vote  
on HUR 1

IF AMENDED TO LET  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
DO IT  
vote yes

Bob Chaff

Mr. M. Williams  
Chairman  
Labor & Employment  
Relations.

I wish to place a  
yes vote on H.R. 1

12-16-83

Bob Bichini



Do pass  
Yes

special session HSR 1

Dixie

ROLL CALL VOTE ----- HOUSE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

	Date: 12/16 No: HJR 1	Date: No:	Date: No:	Date: No:	Date: No:	Date: No:
WILLIAMS, MEL-Chair.	Y					
DOZIER, BOB-Vice Ch.	Y					
ADDY, KELLY	Y					
BACHINE, Robert	Y					
BROWN, JAN	Y					
DRISCOLL, JERRY	Y					
ELLERD, BOB	N					
FARRIS, CAROL	Y					
HANNAH, TOM	N					
HARPER, HAL	Y					
JONES, TOM	N					
MCCORMICK, LLOYD	Y					
MILLER, RON	Y					
PAVLOVICH, BOB	Y					
SEIFERT, CARL	N					
SMITH, CLYDE	Y					
THOFT, BOB	N					



# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

December 16

19 93

MR. **SPEAKER:** .....

We, your committee on **LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS** .....

having had under consideration **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION** ..... ~~SEN~~ No. **1** .....

**First** ..... reading copy ( white )  
color

**A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF MONTANA'S UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE TRUST FUND LAWS TO EXAMINE ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF ELIMINATING THE FUND'S DEFICIT AND ESTABLISHING A SYSTEM OF LONG-TERM SOLVENCY FOR THE FUND.**

Respectfully report as follows: That **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1** ..... ~~SENATE~~ .....

**DO PASS**

**Rep. Mel Williams,** .....

Chairman.

STATE PUB. CO.  
Helena, Mont.

**COMMITTEE SECRETARY**