

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HUMAN SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 11, 1985

The meeting of the Human Services Subcommittee was called to order by Chairman Cal Winslow on April 11, 1985 at 7:34 a.m. in Room 129 of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: All members were present, with the exception of Representative Bradley, who arrived after Roll Call was taken.

Chairman Winslow said the reason this committee was called to meet was to discuss the request by Senator Manning for a performance audit by the Legislative Auditor's office of the AFL-CIO and the Human Resource Development Councils in Missoula, Helena, Bozeman, and Butte.

Senator Manning (73:B:006) suggested that the committee rescind their original motion requesting that the Legislative Auditors conduct the audit, and instead have the state Department of Labor and Industry do it. He said that it would be 10-12 months before the Legislative Auditors could get to this audit, and the fact that their budget was cut during the session, and they would have to get approval from the audit committee.

E X E C U T I V E A C T I O N

Senator Manning rescinded his original motion and made a motion to reconsider the committee's previous action.

Representative Rehberg opposed Senator Manning's motion and said it would not be a problem to wait 10-12 months for the results of an audit. He mentioned that Senator Manning's request of a performance audit could be tied in with Representative Winslow's resolution to study the state job training programs. He said this would then have a good chance of being funded and being done.

Discussion followed concerning the possibility of these two audits being done together, and for clarification of Senator Manning's requested audit.

Senator Christiaens said that there is no reason why the Legislative Auditor's office has to take a year to compile all the information for an audit. He said that as chairman of the PIC council, every meeting they review all of the audit and performance figures, and that information is

available right now. He said he thought this committee could ask for the audit to be done without it being a part of Representative Winslow's resolution.

Scott Seacat, from the Legislative Auditor's Office, said that an audit would not take 10-12 months, it might just take them some time to get to it. He discussed the cut of 7 FTE, which amounts to 10 people being laid off. He said that they need to know what the committee wants them to do in regard to that audit.

Senator Manning said that 10-12 months is a long wait and would cause a lot of pressure to be put on the staff of the programs. He said that the Department of Labor and Industry is the entity that allocates the funds, and they know when their money is being used.

Chairman Winslow said that an audit would alleviate some of the questions the committee had in relation to the performance of these programs. He said that a separate audit done by someone else would be a lot better than having the department that is overseeing the program do an audit.

Senator Christiaens asked Dave Wanzenried, the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry, to comment on the restriction of some of the funds coming through these programs.

Dave Wanzenried said that the program in Bozeman is not operated by the HRDC, the state program is involved there. He said that the department does have an ongoing field monitoring program presently in place on a quarterly basis, and they do have the results of those figures available for four of those organizations, and said he would make this available to the committee if so desired.

Discussion followed concerning the difference sources of funds available that involve all of the programs handled under the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). He said that the original motion does not encompass everything that the committee wants to see.

Senator Story said that the Legislative Auditor's Office is 100 percent bipartisan, and the results should be above suspicion.

Senator Christiaens asked if it would be possible to receive this information from the department immediately. He said that the information that is already available could satisfy some of the immediate questions. He also asked who pays for the cost of the audit; the cost would come from general

fund. The cost would depend on the scope of the requested audit.

Discussion followed concerning the exact role of the Legislature concerning the appropriation of JTPA funds and what they are doing.

Chairman Winslow said that he would prefer a performance audit, not based totally on dollars. He would be looking to see if these programs are working for the people needing help. He said that he would like to expand this request to go into the WIN program, and other work training programs, just so that there is an overview and a definition of what is being accomplished.

Senator Christiaens asked Representative Rehberg what the status of the GAO (General Accounting Office) investigation is concerning the AFL-CIO; it is being put on hold until there is a decision on what the audit committee wanted to do, and how the grand jury investigation worked out, but it can be picked up anytime.

The motion to reconsider the previous action FAILED with Senators Christiaens and Manning voting YES.

Chairman Winslow said that he would like to see reviews of these programs as to where the dollars are being channeled, what populations they are trying to target, and what kinds of successes they are experiencing. He said if the interim study resolution is not funded, this information will still be helpful in the next legislature to see how this money is being spent.

Scott Seacat discussed how the auditor's office would go about gathering this information, and clarified what the committee wants; i.e., are they getting the job done, are the programs successful?

Chairman Winslow said that he would like to get an idea for all work programs such as displaced homemakers, WIN, dislocated workers, and said he wants to see if these are helping the people and which ones are not.

Senator Manning made a request that Dave Wanzenried make the quarterly field monitoring reports available as soon as possible to the committee.

Chairman Winslow said that he would like to amend Senator Manning's motion to also look at job training programs throughout the state, and to see which programs are working. He said there would have to be a motion to amend Senator Manning's to include a performance audit of the

HUMAN SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE
April 11, 1985
Page Four

job training programs in Montana in the original audit request.

Representative Rehberg made a motion to amend Senator Manning's motion to include the job training programs in Montana in the performance audit that is being requested.

The motion PASSED.

Robert Ringwood, the Legislative Auditor from the Legislative Auditor's Office, said that it would be approximately September 1986 before they get a completed report to the committee. He said that the committee has made a very broad statement that requires a lot of work.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 a.m.



CAL WINSLOW, Chairman

DAILY ROLL CALL

Human Services Subcommittee COMMITTEE

49th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1985

Date April 11, 1985

[illegible]

VISITORS' REGISTER

Human Services Sub COMMITTEE

BILL NO. _____

DATE 4-11-85

SPONSOR _____

NAME (please print)	RESIDENCE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
David Wanzenned	Helena		
Christy Konigsberg	Helena		
Jim Foley	Helena		

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR WITNESS STATEMENT FORM.

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.