

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE SENATE

March 26, 1985

The 13th meeting of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee met on the above date in room 108 of the state capitol. Following roll call Chairman Regan called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

ROLL CALL: All members present except Senator Stimatz.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILLS 634 and 759: Representative Lory said he would discuss both bills at once since they were identical except for the department. House Bill 634 is a bill to provide a special revenue account for funding the operations of the securities division of the state auditor's office; provides for deposit in the account of fees, examination charges, and miscellaneous charges collected by the division; provides that fines and penalties collected by the division are to be deposited into the general fund, and providing an effective date.

House Bill 759 is an act providing an insurance regulatory trust account within the state special revenue fund to provide funding for the operations of the insurance department of the state auditor's office on the basis of fees and examination and miscellaneous charges collected by the department, provides that taxes, fines, and penalties collected by the department must be deposited into the general fund; and provides an effective date.

Representative Lory said he felt the operation of the division should be the responsibility of the division and not the general fund and that is the reasons for suggesting these bills. This would provide that in the event the fees are not sufficient to operate in the special funds in the security division, for example, the state may move some in on a non-interest fund, but they must be returned to the state before the end of the fiscal year. This would only happen perhaps at the beginning of the new year when the money had all reverted to the general fund from the previous year, and there were not enough fees generated yet.

Andrea Bennett, State Auditor, said this is a bill that creates a special revenue account within the state treasury. The bill would give us better accounting principles, since the money is generated by fees and licenses, etc. and my office cannot possibly use as much money as it generates, this goes into the general fund. I have no objection to it being used in the general fund, but I do object to getting it appropriated from the general fund so that it is taxpayers money. She handed in 3 papers, attached as exhibit 1, 2, and 3. She also explained exhibit 3 saying it points out the fees and licenses collected and the expenditures. With these bills we should be able to show that industry, for example, is actually paying for its own operation. Many years ago the premium tax was established to run the insurance department. The account got to be millions of dollars and was thrown out. It

now goes into the general fund. Then there was the fees, and they were to pay for operation of the office. They threw out the revolving accounts and never re-established it.

Roger McGlenn, Independent Insurance Agents Association of Montana, spoke as a proponent of House Bill 759. He said they are in wholehearted support of this bill. The purpose of regulation of insurance for the states is established by the Federal McCarran Insurance Act. He said effective consistent insurance regulation is vital. He said it was his understanding the premium tax and fees were set up with 2.9% going to administrative expenses. We also find the Department vital to the insurance business in Montana. He said they send many people to the Department who have problems with an insurance company and the Department has to solve the problems. He felt there was little that could be done at the present time on controlling out of state companies. It is difficult when you are handling 6,000 agents to also handle the non-resident insurance agencies. He said he felt the Montana people would be better served with better funding. The Department could go out and investigate complaints by Montanans to other insurance companies out of the state. He said he would urge the passage of HB 759.

There were no further proponents, no opponents, and Chairman Regan asked if there were questions from the committee.

Senator Aklestad: On page 3, line 20, the fees that are going to be collected--in the past -- how were they handled in the past?

Representative Lory: General fund.

Senator Aklestad: And then the monies were appropriated back to the Department through appropriation?

Representative Lory: Yes.

Senator Bengtson: Even though we appropriate as a subcommittee, the funds--it is intimated there is adequate staff there. Somehow by allowing this bill to pass it sounds as though there will be more money. Is there some sort of an amount in this to allow more money?

Representative Lory: Any money is the Appropriation problem. They could ask for a larger appropriation.

Senator Bengtson: When you do it like this where you have the fund earmarked, the amount that we appropriate goes through into your office directly. Because you want to keep track of how the Department pays for itself--that is why you want to do this. You gave us these figures, is it hard to pull those out to determine whether the office is paying for itself with fees at the present time? What makes you think a better account if not an earmarked account.

Andy Bennett: You are talking about two different issues. The one we have here is an accounting one. There is the question of industry paying all these fees and it is all going into the general fund. Yes, I agree, I still have to go in and ask for funds, but they are not taxpayers funds, they are those generated by industry and I can show them they are being used to finance the office. They have not complained, but I think they would be in a better position if we could show them what happens.

Senator Bengtson: How do you pull it out now?

Andy Bennett: We know what we take in.

Senator Haffey: I want to tell you how this looks to me. You don't accomplish the objectives. You are going to have to go into an appropriation subcommittee and they will look at your needs and fund you probably the same as in the past. You will get no more money and no more employees than in the past. This time the funding will be from the special account we are establishing and not from the general fund. In effect, because your office expenses are less than the fees and miscellaneous charges, then the case can be made that the industry indirectly funds your office. I don't see how your office benefits by setting up the special account. I don't see how industry benefits. I think it is a misunderstanding, and that by doing it this way, all that money in excess of what your office requires to do its job is untouchable by the legislature because it will stay in a special account until the year end or the special year end. How does it benefit your office? Isn't it a negative benefit to other areas?

Andy Bennett: It is indirect. Industry is paying its way, but it is going to the general fund and is concealed there. When we get our appropriation we have to go and ask for taxpayers dollars. Down the road everything seems to be increasing. Some day we may be over that amount and will have to increase either our fees or licenses. If we had some reserve we wouldn't have to go to the general fund.

Senator Haffey: Assume the fees are no higher than they ought to be. If this bill did not pass, the funds --the appropriation would pass along to your office and money above that is for all practical purposes, general fund money. If the 1.6 million is a just and reasonable level for fees, then the difference of \$1 million--you could not even touch it.

Andy Bennett: It actually sits in the fund, there is really no difference, except it is an accounting procedure.

Senator Keating: The insurance tax in the insurance department is not being discussed here. That would still go into the general fund and some are earmarked for special accounts. A portion goes into certain pension funds.

Andy Bennett: Over and above that there is about \$5 million. The \$18 million is all general fund.

Senator Keating: The license fees go into the general fund both in the insurance and the security department. Really then, the only thing you are asking is to establish a revenue account so that it is clear how much money is in license and security and how much is being paid in and how much expenditure so that the industries have a clearer picture of what it is going for.

Senator Hammond: Any balance remaining in the fund--it will go to the general fund at the end of the year, etc. Those are the monies we have been discussing. It is the end of the year that these monies all go into the general fund.

Andy Bennett: It will revert.

Senator Smith: The intention of the bill is so that the money is more identifiable.

Andy Bennett: Even though we collect the fees, we can't actually say they will be paying for the services. Like the payroll division which assesses to every department of the state government. Those fees pay for it. It does not happen in insurance or security. We have to go to the general fund.

Senator Smith: I sit on the subcommittee. If an agency has earmarked funds--like the Fish and Game, etc., it is easier to identify the income and expenses.

Senator Hims1: Has the Legislative Auditor reviewed this? Does it fall within the general accounting principles?

Andy Bennett: Yes.

Senator Hims1: The million and ½ dollars goes into your department and the interest to the department?

Andy Bennett: No, into the general fund.

Senator Hims1: Just the surplus?

Andy Bennett: No, both.

Senator Hims1: The accounting department is put on SBAS isn't it?

Andy Bennett: Yes.

Senator Regan: I tend not to favor special funds because in the appropriation process the people doing the appropriation seem to say--Oh well, those are not general funding and they tend to be more generous. None the less, they are funds that are all

appropriable the way we have it set up now. Having the special revenue account does not give you any authority to spend more. It is to have more flexibility so that you can say--look this is what we are spending and this is what we are taking in. Curt, do you review this bill as tying up general funds?

Curt Nichols, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, said in taking a look at the revenue raised in relation to the appropriations--he had not had time to study this and would have to do so.

Senator Regan: Are they visible in the budget analysis?

Curt Nichols: They are visible in the general analysis, but not the way they are in the budget.

Senator Regan: Could the same thing be accomplished by instructing that the fiscal analysts that they show these incomes so that they are visible? I think there could be some problems. If you come to July 1 and there is nothing there to spend. Everything reverts and the pot will be empty. 2nd, by putting these monies in a special revenue account we delay for 2 years our ability to appropriate these monies.

Curt Nichols: The money is tied up for the time, yes.

Senator Hammond: What portion of the general fund monies are invested by the investment board? Is there no advantage in getting it invested?

Andy Bennett: There is no difference other than the accounting procedure.

Senator Regan: And the ability of appropriating it for 2 years.

Senator Manning: By doing this, does it make it harder for the general fund to function?

Curt Nichols: I am not sure what it will cause. It does delay it but I have not analyzed what the delay would cause.

Senator Christiaens: I don't think it is quite correct that it ties it up in the general fund for 2 years. As I read it, it will revert at the end of each year.

Senator Bengtson: The money they don't spend--you know where those monies are and the interest is going into the general fund.

Curt Nichols: That is currently correct. The funds are easy to identify and they are invested currently.

Senator Keating: When are these fees collected?

Andy Bennett: At all times. Every month there are the \$10 license fees for anyone taking the test to be licensed.

Senator Keating: So there is a cash flow all the year then.

Senator Haffey: I would like to do a scenario. You walk into the subcommittee and say--here are our needs. We need \$1 million for these to be done and the subcommittee says okay, or whatever. But whatever they say, they say, and it will be in the big bill and it shows that the appropriation for operating these two divisions is general fund operated and the income flows into the general fund with all the fees, etc. and the income is \$1.9 million, let's say, and this is the revenue flow into the general fund and into the subcommittee that is a little tighter than you want it to be. The \$1.6 million is available for appropriation for--let's say the university system or someone else. If the bill passes -- forget the interest since it will flow into the general fund-- but the million dollars is not available. When the budget passes we will have \$1 million less to appropriate.

Andy Bennett: Curt will be aware that it is general fund and is there.

Senator Haffey: And it could be appropriated or it couldn't. Clearly it is appropriated currently.

Curt Nichols: Yes. The money deposited from the first year will be available in the second year and the second year would be available the next, but it does cause the first year delay.

Senator Haffey: The first in the second, the second in the third and so on.

Senator Keating: You are dealing with anticipated revenue. The million dollars is appropriated in anticipation of the revenue. It would be a 1 year hiatus. We would be anticipating with the capital revenue. We would be working each year with money that would be there the next year, it would be there the second year of the biennium.

Senator Himsl: It would be the unexpended funds that would revert, but later.

Senator Gage: You will look at the cash flow basis. You will be looking at the same but not in the cash pot for a year.

Representative Loring said he had no more to say on closing, but felt it was a good hearing.

DISPOSITION OF SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 34: Motion by Senator Bengtson that SJR 34 do pass. Voted, passed, unanimous vote.

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 342: Senator Regan said this is the bill that would set up the account that was forgotten last session when the special revenue accounts were set up to take care of the architects and engineers. It would merely set up a working account so that the A&E would be able to operate. There was a mistake last time and the A&E division were unable to cover the necessary costs they have --the ability to pay the administrative costs.

Senator Smith: Say they estimate a bid and it exceeds the bid is this so they can go into this account and spend money over the appropriations? Several committee members as well as Curt Nichols answered, no.

Senator Hims1: I think the committee before we pass this, should look at the bottom of page 2. "The department may transfer all money authorized by the legislature for its administrative expenditures from the capital projects fund to a special revenue fund." I wonder if this might not be opening it up.

Senator Boylan: MOTION: I would move that HB 342 be not concurred in. They can already move funds around.

Senator Gage: As I regard this, let's take that area where a bid was not accepted. As I view that, they could transfer from their administrative cost--under "costs" it lists designs, acquiring land and construction of capital projects and buildings.

Senator Regan: On page 4, lines 13-16. "The department may transfer all money authorized by the legislature for its administrative expenditures from the capital projects account to a special revenue fund." It did not increase any flexibility--only for administrative costs for the department of engineers. Curt would you address this?

Curt Nichols: A&E administrative costs are funded by assessment against the capital funds. There is an appropriation. The money comes from the capital fund and they need this process to get the money to operate. HB 12 also has this section in it and that was heard in the house Appropriation committee last night.

Senator Regan: Is this bill necessary for them to get their money to operate on?

Curt Nichols: When this was changed over last session this was not put into HB 500. Somehow it fell through the crack.

Senator Regan: If this bill passes then should there be something added so that it does not happen twice?

Senator Smith: If it doesn't pass I am sure the department would keep right on operating. They have been operating in the interim without it.

Curt Nichols: When the new accounting system was brought on line this was not included and the A&E were left without any money. They had an appropriation but they could not get the money into the account to spend it.

Senator Keating: I think this is a straight-forward request.

Senator Boylan: If I am correct this is the one where all the departments came in? Several Senators explained this was not the same bill.

MOTION WITHDRAWN: Senator Boylan said he would withdraw his motion that HB 342 be not concurred in.

MOTION: by Senator Jacobson that House Bill 342 be concurred in.

Senator Gage: This section that was new language on page 4, lines 13-16--is it wise to say "all money authorized"? Isn't this a little broad?

Senator Keating: It is part of the whole paragraph. If you will read the preceding sentences, I think you will have no problem with it.

Question was called, the motion was voted to be concurred in and passed with Senators Boylan and Smith voting no. Senator Gage will carry the bill on the floor.

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 565: MOTION by Senator Bengtson that House Bill 565 do pass.

Senator Keating: This \$190,000 of federal revenue is in excess and is laying there and is for some sort of use. It could go into the general fund and be used for anything.

Senator Regan: It could not go into the general fund, but it could go into the Highway fund and into the general fund.

Senator Keating: Their accountants are very good at moving things around and it could be spent for any number of things.

Senator Christiaens: In their testimony, some special requirements were overcome by the department to specifically request this money. I don't think there is flexibility to put it anywhere else. Curt, would you address this?

Curt Nichols: There is a broad flexibility for the purpose used. You have to have a public hearing. You would have to give notice and have the public hearing again, etc.

Senator Bengtson: I would like to speak to the motion. With the centennial coming it is appropriate we spend the money for it. It would really be a good place to put the money. If I understood it there was a great deal of work done to free up that money in the first place.

Question was called, the motion to be concurred in was voted and passed with Senator Keating voting no. Senator Bengtson to carry the bill on the floor.

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 842: MOTION by Senator Boylan that House Bill 842 be not concurred in. The testimony in the committee showed it was not a good bill. I told some of them from the departments I thought they had made an "over-kill" when they came in with all the departments against the bill, but I think we can basically see where there is plenty of flexibility without doing this. Therefore I would move the bill be not concurred in.

Senator Keating: This bill covers 4 different areas, including federal funds and vacancy savings. Originally it was not to include all of this but was intended to be 2 bills. The drafters put it all in one. The agencies supported it in the House thinking it would be amended to remove the vacancy savings and general fund and dealing only with general funding money in a surplus to take care of termination. If some sentiment is expressed here I will draft amendments and bring in to do this. In our subcommittees where we dealt with the agencies we come across this business of termination and we have cut the vacancy savings every biennium making it difficult for those agencies to operate. In the Auditors office when Sonny Omholt quit and took so many with him, this would set a little aside to take care of some of this problem. We would be operating on cash we have rather than anticipated revenue. If the sentiment is here I will have some amendments drafted.

Senator Christiaens: It would appear to me that the occurrence in the Auditor's office was rather unique. I don't think that kind of thing would be done on an ongoing basis. I would speak against it. The Legislature should know what is happening when the agencies have to come in and ask for a supplemental.

Senator Keating: The Auditor's office was unique as to the number. We are seeing more and more terminations and retirements and some earlier. I can see some in the investments board, the tax appeal board, etc. and there is no longer any room in the budgets to save for this.

Senator Himsl: I would agree with Chris. The only way we can see it is to have them come in to the subcommittees. We put up a Micky Mouse fund like this and it will be hidden so that you will never see it. It seems to me that these things ought to be more visible. The other case is where the Administration Dept. has made claims against the other departments. I think it should be brought before us.

Senator Smith: I see where this would revert \$6½ million a year. I agree with Senator Himsl. In many instances if you put it into a fund you can not scrutinize it.

Question was called. The motion to do not pass was voted, carried unanimous with Senator Himsl to carry the bill.

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 634: Senator Regan said this is the bill that would set up a special account for the security Division of the State Auditor's office.

MOTION by Senator Keating that HB 634 be concurred in. Senator Keating said this bill is merely an accounting procedure. It rearranges the accounting to make the situation more obvious.

Senator Haffey: If that is what it does, I will vote yes. Curt, is that what it really does or what? It appears to me there would be a year delay. The monies will be deposited in a special revenue account, and the revenues normally coming in would be held up for one year. A one year delay in the revenue. You would never make it up and the only other impact is that it now creates the possibility of a budget amendment, was the answer given by Curt.

Senator Haffey: It does now. The committee members who won't remember when this was general fund will feel more comfortable in adding a couple more FTE.

Senator Christiaens: This falls right along with the other one. The more earmarked, the less in the public eye and the less in the committee's eye. I would like to see that money all the time and this committee give it the direction.

Senator Gage: It does not do anything as far as the revenue is concerned. We still appropriate the fees. It does not preclude us from appropriating that \$1 million. You can make an appropriation based on the premise that it will be there, just like the income tax.

Senator Haffey: That was a very clear explanation of what it does. Curt, do you agree?

Curt Nichols: Yes. There is a one year delay on the cash flow.

Senator Regan: You will take \$1.6 million of what normally would be general fund money. You are allowing a transfer from what would normally go into general fund into a special revenue account and tying it up. I think that whoever is on the appropriation committee and looking at it will see all that money, and you will find that the expenditures will likely rise very rapidly. The fiscal analyst could just as well, in their analysis, say these are the monies coming in, this is the money being spent, this is current level, etc. It does not change their ability to identify the funds or to ask for appropriations.

Senator Keating: If that be the case, the reason would be to serve those people paying the fees. Industry is willing to pay the fees because they need the money to operate. If the Auditor's office or the agency needs the funds for additional performance they will give industry and the public the question of why should they have to fight for it when it is raised for that purpose. We look at special revenue money as tight as general fund money when we work the subcommittees.

Senator Boylan: I don't think there is anything in the bill that is earmarking it. It makes the revenue identifiable, but not earmarked.

Senator Gage: For future Legislators. We will be here this session and remember it and what we are talking about but some years down the line those people will not know anything about what is happening here.

Senator Aklestad: You look at special funds with the same eye as general funds. I think the same thing will happen when this budget appears.

Senator Smith: If those funds are collected to scrutinize the insurance industry, then they should be spent for that. The fees are collected in one agency and it should be spent for the purpose for which they are collected.

Senator Haffey: If this is what Andrea is asking for it is much like the consumer council tax. The money comes in there and is appropriated by the subcommittee. Is it handled in a manner similar to the way that house bill asks that the money for the consumers council tax be used?

Curt Nichols: It would be different in that these fees generate more than used by the department. Their provision in this is to provide a wash in the general fund at the end of each year.

Senator Hammond: It is true that some of us will not be here and many who are will not remember this conversation. This is the first time that many people will be made aware that the money does come from fees, etc.

Senator Gage: This money is available regardless of where it goes into. We could instruct the budget department and the fiscal analyst to point this out.

MOTION by Keating to concur in H. B. 634 was voted, passed, roll call vote, 8 yes, 6 no. Vote attached.

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 759: Motion by Senator Keating that House Bill 759 be concurred in. Voted, passed, roll call vote. 9 yes, 5 no, roll call attached.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 a.m.



SENATOR REGAN, CHAIRMAN

TO: SENATE FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE

RE: HB 634

AT THE REQUEST OF THE STATE AUDITOR

This bill creates a special revenue account within the State Treasury to provide for the operations of the Securities Department of the State Auditor's Office.

The State Auditor takes the position that the burden of funding the Securities regulatory operations should fall upon the securities industry, and not the taxpayers of Montana.

It is important to note that fines and penalties collected by the Securities Commissioner are to be deposited into the general fund. Only fees, examination charges and miscellaneous charges such as copying costs, are to be deposited into the special account.

Section 1 amends the basic fee section of the Securities Act of Montana. The added language on page 3 at lines 20-25 and on page 4 at lines 1-4, simply provides that fees, examination charges and miscellaneous charges will comprise the securities regulatory trust account. Fines and penalties collected under the Act will be deposited into the general fund.

Section 2 is a new section which creates the securities regulatory trust account. The monies deposited into that account shall only be paid out on appropriation by the legislature. At the end of the fiscal year, any remaining balance in the account must be transferred to the general fund.

Section 3 is a new section which states that the securities commissioner shall make the money in the securities regulatory trust account available for investment by the board of investments. Such investment earnings shall be credited to the securities account.

Section 4 is a new section which provides that if the trust account becomes insufficient to meet the securities department funding requirements, the treasurer may order a transfer of money from another fund. Such amount must be repaid not later than the end of the fiscal year in which the transfer is made.

Section 5 is a new section which provides that any expenses incurred by the Securities Commissioner which are paid out of the general fund, shall be reimbursed to the general fund.

TO: SENATE FINANCE & CLAIMS COMMITTEE

AT THE REQUEST OF THE STATE AUDITOR

DATE: MARCH 26, 1985

RE: DEDICATED FUNDING BILLS FOR INSURANCE (HB 759)
AND SECURITIES (HB 634)

The two bills which we would like you to sponsor, create earmarked accounts within the state treasury to provide for the operations of the insurance and securities departments of the State Auditor's office. It is the position of the Auditor that the insurance and securities industries pay for their own regulation in that the fees collected by the insurance and securities departments more than cover the expenditures of these departments. This position is supported by the following revenue and expense figures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1984:

INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

<u>PREMIUM TAX</u>	<u>LICENSES & FEES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXP/REV</u> [%]
\$18,771,331	\$1,588,314	\$604,071	2.9%

SECURITIES DEPARTMENT

<u>LICENSES & FEES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXP/REV</u> [%]
\$1,588,745	\$260,374	16.4%

Such figures from prior years provide very similar percentages of expenditures to revenues.

The conclusion to be reached from these figures is that the operations of the insurance and securities departments are paid for by those industries and not by Montana tax dollars. Therefore, dedicated or earmarked funds within the treasury should be created for these

departments so that the burden of funding their operations falls not upon the taxpayer, but upon the industries.

It is important to note that fines, penalties and insurance premium taxes are to be deposited into the general fund. Only license and registration fees, examination costs of insurance company and broker-dealers and miscellaneous charges such as copying costs are to be deposited into the earmarked accounts.

These bills create the earmarked accounts and provide that monies in the accounts can only be paid out upon legislative appropriation. Any balance remaining in the earmarked accounts at the end of the fiscal year is transferred to the general fund. Monies in the accounts are to be invested by the board of investments, as are other state funds. Should a deficiency occur in the funds, the state treasurer can transfer money from another state fund to operate the departments.

However, any monies transferred from other funds to these earmarked accounts, shall be repaid no later than the end of the fiscal year in which the transfer is made.

JKS1/lmC102

TO: SENATE FINANCE & CLAIMS COMMITTEE

AT THE REQUEST OF THE STATE AUDITOR

RE: HB 759

Section 1 amends the basic fee section of the Insurance Code. The added language on page 5 at lines 3-5 and 9-14, simply states that fines, penalties and taxes will be paid into the general fund. The insurance trust account will consist only of fees and examination and miscellaneous charges.

Section 2 is a new section which creates the insurance regulatory trust account. The monies deposited into that account shall only be paid out on appropriation by the legislature. At the end of the fiscal year, any remaining balance in the account must be transferred to the general fund.

Section 3 is a new section which states that the insurance commissioner shall make the money in the insurance regulatory trust account available for investment by the board of investments. Such investment earnings shall be credited to the insurance account.

Section 4 is a new section which provides that if the trust account becomes insufficient to meet the insurance department funding requirements, the treasurer may order a transfer of money from another fund. Such amount must be repaid not later than the end of the fiscal year in which the transfer is made.

Section 5 is a new section which provides that any expenses incurred by the insurance commissioner which are paid out of the general fund, shall be reimbursed to the general fund.

EWP:ddM1

Testimony - HB565 "An Act appropriating money for the refurbishment, improvement, replacement or addition of Montana's historical highway marker system and providing for an immediate effective date.

From: Montana Historical Society, Robert Archibald

This legislation will appropriate \$190,525 of Federal Revenue Sharing monies for refurbishment of, and additions to, Montana's historical highway marker system. The project will be a cooperative undertaking between the Department of Highways, Department of Commerce and the Montana Historical Society over a three year period.

Montana's existing highway markers, commonly known as the "Fletcher Signs" were erected in the 1930's and 1940's. Text for the signs were written by Bob Fletcher and illustrated by artist "Shorty" Shope. These signs are an important historic resource in their own right and are fondly viewed by tourists and Montanans alike. The first priority of this project will be to repair, refurbish or recreate the existing signs as written by Fletcher and illustrated by Shope. The signs have a Montana flavor which should not be tampered with. Many of these signs have been vandalized, weather worn or destroyed. It is our plan to have them refurbished well in advance of our upcoming Centennial.

Depending on how far we can stretch the available funds we will develop new texts and signs which will reflect thematic and geographic balance. All new sign placement will be planned for existing pull out areas where right-of-way will not have to be acquired and access is available. All new signage will

use the same format as the existing Fletcher/Shope signs.

Refurbishment of the Fletcher/Shope signs will protect an important element of Montana's heritage. New signage, if possible with available funds, will create a legacy for the future. As a whole, this project will add to the enjoyment of Montana travelers, promote tourism and is a uniquely appropriate way to celebrate 100 years of statehood.

The Montana Historical Society supports HB565.

ROLL CALL

SENATE FINANCE AND CLAIMS

COMMITTEE

49th LEGISLATIVE SESSION - - 185

Date 3-26-85

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
SENATOR REGAN	✓		
SENATOR HAFHEY	✓		
SENATOR JACOBSON	✓		
SENATOR AKLESTAD	✓		
SENATOR HAMMOND	✓		
SENATOR LANE	✓		
SENATOR CHRISTIAENS	✓		
SENATOR GAGE	✓		
SENATOR HIMSL	✓		
SENATOR STIMATZ		✓	
SENATOR BOYLAN	✓		
SENATOR STORY	✓		
SENATOR SMITH	✓		
SENATOR MANNING (Dick)	✓		
SENATOR BENGTON	✓		
SENATOR KEATING	✓		

SENATE COMMITTEE

FINANCE AND CLAIMS

VOTING RECORD

Date 3-26-85HBill No. 634 Time 9:20

Name	YES	NO	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Senator Haffey	✓			
Senator Jacobson		✓		
Senator Aklestad		✓		
Senator Hammond	✓			
Senator Lane	✓			
Senator Christiaens		✓		
Senator Gage		✓		
Senator Himsel	✓			
Senator Stimatz				✓
Senator Boylan	✓			✓
Senator Story				✓
Senator Smith	✓			
Senator Manning (Dick)		✓		
Senator Bengtson	✓			
Senator Keating	✓			
Senator Regan		✓		
	8	6		

Sylvia Kinsey
Secretary

Senator Regan
Chairman

Motion:

Keat - Be Concurred in

SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEE

BILL 17 B 634

DATE _____

SPONSOR

[illegible]

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

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY

SENATE COMMITTEE

FINANCE AND CLAIMS

VOTING RECORD

Date 3-26-85HouseBill No. 759 Time 9 21

Name	YES	NO	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Senator Haffey	✓			
Senator Jacobson	✓			
Senator Aklestad		✓		
Senator Hammond	✓			
Senator Lane	✓			
Senator Christiaens		✓		
Senator Gage		✓		
Senator Himsl	✓			
Senator Stimatz			✓	
Senator Boylan	✓			
Senator Story			✓	
Senator Smith	✓			
Senator Manning (Dick)		✓		
Senator Bengtson	✓			
Senator Keating	✓			
Senator Regan		✓		
	9	5		

Sylvia Kinsey
Secretary

Senator Regan
Chairman

Motion: Keating

SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEE

BILL HB 759

DATE _____

SPONSOR _____

[illegible]

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

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 26

1935

MR. PRESIDENT

We, your committee on Finance and Claims

having had under consideration House Bill No. 842

third reading copy (blue)
color

STATE EMPLOYEE CONTINGENCY FUND - UNUSED LEAVE LIABILITY AND VACANCY SAVINGS

LORY (Hinsl)

Respectfully report as follows: That House Bill No. 842

BE NOT CONCURRED IN

~~XXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXX~~
DO PASS

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
DO NOT PASS

SENATOR PAT REGAN,

Chairman.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 26

85

19

MR. PRESIDENT

Finance and Claims

We, your committee on

House

565

having had under consideration

No.

third

reading copy (blue)
color

APPROPRIATING MONEY TO REPAIR HIGHWAY HISTORICAL MARKERS

FRITZ (Bengtson)

House

565

Respectfully report as follows: That

No.

BE CONCURRED IN

~~XXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXX~~

Senator Pat Regan

Chairman.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 26

1985

MR. PRESIDENT

We, your committee on Finance and Claims

having had under consideration Senate Joint Resolution No. 34

first reading copy (white)
color

REQUESTING STUDY OF COMPENSATION OF ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Respectfully report as follows: That Senate Joint Resolution No. 34

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
DO PASS

~~XXXXXX~~
DO PASS

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

SENATOR PAT REGAN,

Chairman.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 26 19 85

MR. PRESIDENT

We, your committee on Finance and Claims

having had under consideration House Bill No. 342

third reading copy (blue)
color

ALLOW TRANSFER OF FUNDS FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS TO SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

LORY (Gage)

Respectfully report as follows: That House Bill No. 342

BE CONCURRED IN

~~XXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
~~DO NOT PASS~~

SENATOR PAT REGAN,

Chairman.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 26

19. 85

MR. PRESIDENT

We, your committee on Finance and Claims

having had under consideration House Bill No. 634

third reading copy (blue)
color

SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR OPERATIONS OF SECURITIES DIVISION

LORY (Heating)

Respectfully report as follows: That House Bill No. 634

BE CONCURRED IN

~~DO NOT PASS~~

~~DO NOT PASS~~

SENATOR PAT REGAN,

Chairman.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 26

1935

MR. PRESIDENT

We, your committee on Finance and Claims

having had under consideration..... House Bill No. 759

third reading copy (blue)
color

SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR OPERATIONS OF INSURANCE DIVISION - STATE AUDITOR

LORY (Keating)

Respectfully report as follows: That..... House Bill No. 759

BE CONCURRED IN

~~DO PASS~~

~~DO NOT PASS~~

SENATOR PAT REGAN,

Chairman.