MINUTES OF THE MEETING FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE MONTANA STATE SENATE

April 11, 1985

The 17th meeting of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee met in room 108 of the State Capitol on the above date. Roll call was taken and Chairman Regan called the committee to order at 8:03 a.m.

ROLL CALL: All members present except Senator Christiaens, who was excused.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL 270: Representative Marks, House District 75 said this bill would create a select committee on Health Insurance for Retired Public Employees. It would be an 8 member committee to study the things indicated on page 3 of the bill. \$8,000 was the amount, down from \$25,000. \$8,000 will cover the expenses and salaries of the legislators who will still be able to meet. I was contacted prior to the session by some people in public retirement with big trouble they have had in figuring health insurance and being able to pay for it. We took this bill back over and we have now a second printing for the bill. The only amendment is relative to the funding. That amendment at the bottom of page 4 where the bill ends-you strike the \$25,000 for use by the committee and insert (1) for committee expenses, \$8,000 from the state general fund and (2) for obtaining acturial services, \$5,000 from the dept of administration, personnel division, group benefit administration account, and \$5,000 from the interest income of the public employees' retirement system pension trust fund.

Proponents for House Bill 270: Leo Berry, Association of Montana Retired Employees, said he supports the bill, his testimony is attached as exhibit 1, H.B. 270.

<u>William Shoquist</u>, AMRPE, Boulder, said they have received a lot of mail and it contained questions. Retirement benefits are low and not up to par and they are having a lot of trouble paying the premiums. Many over 65 and a lot retired when the pay was small. 2900 people over 65 years of age. I stayed in the state health insurance program. In this program 31.5% of the retirement people have real problems. I took the last 15 months and took the opportunity to circulate some petitions. About 320 registered voter signatures on this. Petitions are attached as exhibit 2, HB 270.

George Christensen, AMRPE, Boulder, state retiree, said he retired in 1978 after 17 years at \$190 a month, I didn't feel I was able to continue with the insurance coverage that I had when I was actively employed. Luckily I got by without using it until last year when I broke a leg. I had 3 operations in 3 months. I finally had a steel plate to pull it together. In the process, I still have to pay off about \$3,000 that medicare did not pay.

Tom Schneider, MPEA, Clancy, said he represents the Montana Public Employees Association and also is a member of the state Advisory Committee which oversees the state health self funded The meeting between myself and the retired Association program. came about as a result of this. We discussed what could be done. At that time we thought about a bill to help. We thought about a lot of problems that had to be resolved before we could do so. The idea of a study is not just to grant an increase. It is to find out what the problems are and what kind of methods can be used to help down the road. This covers all people in the program, not just the state employees. The health program has been in existance for 8 years and covers about 900 state employees. 1100 retirees covered with a possibility of 3500 with PERS and teachers had they stayed with the plan when they retired prior to 1977 or the agencies had a premium and not under the same. After that some of them chose not to be. If we had an open enrollment to accomodate the 3500 to be covered it would cost \$2 million. We do not have that. It would become an ongoing expense. Under the current self funded program we will not have an open enrollment. A lot have their own health programs or not at all. All local governments have their own if they have one. We do know there are school districts that have negotiated through the school district and pay a contribution to the retirement and the teachers. Those are the nature of the problems.

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

<u>Senator Manning</u>: Do you have any idea how much is in the self insurance fund at the present time?

Representative Marks: About \$11 million. The teachers --The uncommitted amounts are one thing and the reserves are another. There is an obligation against that all the time, and there is some trouble with what it actually is. I have one figure from the fiscal analyst and one from the other.

Senator Manning: Tom Schneider, do you have it?

Tom Schneider: At the year ending fund reserve of \$9 million. Claims occurred but in part of \$3.3 million and the 20% stop loss take that the fund itself guarantees it is a \$2.68 million and that will leave it to allocate \$3.5 million of reserve. That is the figures the consultant says are necessary to do a self insurance program.

Senator Keating: The amount of appropriation went from \$15,000 to \$8,000.

<u>Representative Marks</u>: The general fund to \$8,000 the other part \$5,000 from insurance fund and \$5,000 from the Department of Administration.

Senator Regan: Why a select committee rather than allow one of the standing committees? Can't you save some money by doing it?

Representative Marks: The finance committee?

Senator Regan: They could. Why not a resolution?

Senator Himsl discussed briefly some of the inequities in the insurance, salaries, etc. and using insurance money for this.

Representative Marks: The insurance the study would get is very important. If you go through a Joint Resolution it is just more studies.

Senator Regan: I am not questioning a bill. I am questioning rather state administration or a combination of state administration and education.

Representative Marks: I think the leadership should take that into consideration when they make the appointments. I presume we could work together on it. The reason the bill is because of the actuary. It would be difficult in a resolution.

There were no further questions and Representative Marks closed by saying there was not much more to say. The details are on page 3. A multitude of considerations to make that it covers.

Senator Regan declared the hearing closed on House Bill 270.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL 949: Representative Marks, chief sponsor of House Bill 949 said this bill would appropriate coal board money to the foundation program and it also provides an immediate effective date. It provides coal tax money out of this year's share to the foundation program. \$750,000. It is part of the balancing act we had in the House that we sent to the Senate. It is part of the \$13 million ending fund balance. This money would be used the first of the biennium and is not subject to reversion. 17-7-304 is the reversion section. It is so they will come out with the other monies.

Senator Regan: This is money the coal board did not spend in this biennium and therefore it should be spread into the district.

Representative Marks: Normally yes, but this only advances it.

<u>Senator Regan</u>: Do you think the other bill should be reduced by this amount?

<u>Representative Marks</u>: The Eudaily bill--it would back that much out.

Senator Bengtson: The education trust fund. It normally would have gone to that?

Representative Marks: Normally you would have, only this time the trust fund. There probably would not be a reversion. It is my understanding that the coal board probably would have used it for grants and it would not have reverted anyway. The grants will be about \$750,000 less than they would have been.

Senator Regan: My understanding is that there is more than \$750, 000. Isn't there about \$1.2 million there? Why don't we be generous and take it all?

<u>Representative Marks</u>: There are some grants that are ongoing and the department still gives them the opportunity to fund those that they feel are really needed.

Senator Regan: How much is there?

<u>Representative Marks</u>: I think about \$1.2 million. It is readily available. I think it is \$1,270,000.

Senator Keating: Isn't this the \$750,000 we had appropriated for the drug task force?

Senator Gage: Yes. It would be the appropriation for 2 years from now.

Senator Keating: What was the House bill number.

Senator Gage: It was a committee bill actually. 9 something.

Senator Regan: It was dead.

Representative Marks said in closing that the bill you speak about on the drug task force appeared to be in serious trouble so I saw this as a place to get some funds and it seems the other project not funded, so why not appropriate it into this bill.

Senator Regan said that the hearing would be closed on House Bill 949. Tomorrow morning we will probably be hearing House Bill 500. We are not working on Sunday -- in essence the only thing we will allow the bureaucracy to respond to is the House floor actions. Any member may raise an issue and ask a person questions, obviously. I do not want to open it up to a full blown hearing.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL 942: Representative Winslow, chief sponsor of the bill said this bill would delete the requirement that remaining funds revert to the Resource Indemnity Trust fund. (RIT) It calls for the RIT funds at 6% to the Health Department not being reverted back to the RIT fund so that they can be available for the super fund.

Proponents for House Bill 942: Rae Hoffman, Health Department, said in the House they had stricken some language in the bill on page 2. The reason for the language is that the Health Department uses the RIT funds to match to have federal funds. We do not know how much the super fund will come in at. This

will allow us to use this money. We must come back and ask you for additional authority in the next biennium. It is not statutory.

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

Senator Gage: The underlined language. May not revert now?

Representative Winslow: That was included when the bill was drafted. The Governor's staff thought it should be deleted and it was taken out in the House Appropriation Committee. The language is not needed. It is consistent with H. B. 500.

Senator Himsl: It is unclear to me. Are we talking about the remaining independent funds? The unused part will not be reverted back?

<u>Bepresentative Winslow</u>: The 6% of the funds are only in the statutes and at the end of the year it will not be reverted, it will be available for use.

Senator Himsl: Is there more than 6%?

<u>Rae Hoffman</u>: In the statutes it says 6%. The maximum it can go is at 6% for the biennium. I think the amount of dollars the RIT will get is an estimate at the present time. The thing that came up to us says any unspent balance. If we do not come up to 6% or we do not meet the conditions, we cannot spend more than we have or have the authority to spend.

<u>Senator Himsl</u>: What we are talking about. The 6% of the interest income of the RIT funds. That will be used by the Department and instead of many reversions, you will be able to use all of it.

<u>Rae Hoffman</u>: That is right, and it is specifically stated in the language of House Bill 500.

Senator Regan: The language. If we pass this without the language in we give you the authority each and every biennium to spend that money.

<u>Rae Hoffman</u>: The initial bill--the Governor's legal staff advises us it may have to be a statutory appropriation and we talked to them. We are making it very specific that it must be reappropriated each biennium. It is not statutory.

Senator Regan: Without the language it becomes a statutory appropriation. It may be something we are unable to address.

Rae Hoffman: I have brought House Bill 500 if you want to look at it.

Senator Regan: It only addresses this biennium. I think I will ask the fiscal analyst to look harder at this and discuss

it with the agency and they can have a good clear picture of this when we act on the bill.

Senator Keating: When was line 6 enacted?

Rae Hoffman: In '82 or '83.

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Senator Keating: The 6% was for the purpose of monitoring the hazardous waste program and if any money was left over, the department reverted it. All you are saying then is that you want to leave it in a special fund to use as in-match for cleanups of hazardous waste in the state.

Rae Hoffman: You might look at the title. The Governor's legal staff felt that the original language would make it statutory. The bill was changed and the title changed and they felt it took it out of the realm of a statutory appropriation.

Representative Winslow closed by saying the intent is to use the entitled 6%. In some cases they get 6% and only use 4% but the intent is to make it so that they can use it.

Senator Regan declared the hearing closed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 a.m.

Senator Regan, Chairman

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ROLL CALL

SENATE FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE

49th LEGISLATIVE SESSION - - 185

Date 4-11-85

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SENATOR REGAN				
SENATOR HAFFEY	V			
SENATOR JACOBSON	V			
SENATOR AKLESTAD	V			
SENATOR HAMMOND				
SENATOR LANE	V			
SENATOR CHRISTIAENS			V	
SENATOR GAGE	V			
SENATOR HIMSL	V			
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SENATOR STORY				
SENATOR SMITH	· · ·			
SENATOR MANNING (Dick)				
SENATOR BENGTSON	iV			
SENATOR KEATING	V			

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

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

TESTIMONY HB 270

Association of Montana Retired Public Employees

Rising health care costs is one of the most critical problems facing the nation and Montana today. It is particularly critical to our elderly, those on fixed incomes or retirement benefits. On a national level, the Mercer Public Sector Report estimates that the per capita medical costs for those over 65 was \$4,200 in 1984 -- up over 100 percent since 1979. For example, Montanans spent 20 percent more on health care in 1983 than they did in 1982 (\$826 million compared to \$686 million). In addition to increasing health insurance and medical care costs, inflation in all sectors is up approximately 50 percent from 1979.

MEDICAL COSTS:

4NB 270

1979 hospital room - \$96.00 1984 hospital room - \$200.00 increase of \$104.00 or 108%

INSURANCE COSTS--WITHOUT DENTAL:

a) retiree and spouse--Medicare eligible:

1979 - \$43.20 1984 - \$94.00 increase of \$50.80 or 117%

b) retiree and spouse--under 65:

1979 - \$65.99 1984 - \$122.00 increase of \$66.01 or 100%

In 1981, the retired public employees were granted a cost of living increase of 50 cents per month for each year of service. In 1983, the Legislature authorized \$1.00 per month for each year of service up to 30 years. The average retiree has 18.4 years of service. So the total average increase for cost of living for the past two bienniums has been approximately \$27.50 per month. The Association will be requesting a cost of living increase this session, but as can easily be seen from the above figures, such increases have not even kept pace with rising insurance premiums, much less all of the impacts of inflation.

HB 270 merely provides for an interim study on the impacts of rising health insurance premiums. It does not make any determination

as to whether the state should pay a portion of those premiums; nor does it identify any specific method should the state decide to participate. The options vary from total employee contributions toward future premiums to public employers paying the total of such premiums. Attached is a comparison by state of the various programs. Twenty-four states contribute some percentage of the retirees' insurance costs. Fourteen pay 100 percent of costs, while six pay fifty percent or more. Some states contribute only if the retiree has worked 25 years or more, while others contribute a certain percentage for each year of service.

HB 270 offers the opportunity to evaluate health insurance premium costs and the impacts of rising medical costs. It is a small price to pay to learn whether the elderly can afford to become ill. We urge your support of HB 270.

Table 3

MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS TO STATE EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS: 1983 AND 1984

RETIREE ONLY COVERAGE

		COST TO	RETIREE	COST 1	O STATE	TOTAL	COST		OF TOTAL BY STATE
	STATE	_1983_	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984	- 1983	1984
	ALABAMA	28.00	32.00	0	0	28.00	32.00	0	0
	ALASKA	0	0	115.61	156.07	115.61	156.07	100.0%	100.0%
	ARIZONA	44.60	57.94	0	0	44.60	57.94	0	0
I	ARKANSAS	31.00	34.00	0	0	31.00	34.00	0	0
ï	CALIFORNIA	0 0	0 0	57.25 63.73	66.00 66.41	57.25 63.73	66.00 66.41	100.0 100.0	100.0 100.0
	COLORADO	6.36	0	42.12	53.12	48.48	53.12	86.9	100.0
- 	CONNECTICUT	34.33	44.59	9.97	13.38	44.30	57.97	22.5	23.1
	DELAWARE	2.30 15.98	2.84 18.94	24.18 24.18	27.68 27.68	26.48 40.16	30.52 46.62	91.3 60.2	90.7 59.4
	FLORIDA	25.90	55.08	0	0	25.90	55.08	0	0
	GEORGIA	10.00	13.10	51.10	56.20	61.10	69.30	83.6	81.1
-	HAWAII	0	0	37.24	46.56	37.24	46.56	100.0	100.0
	IDAHO	21.27	24.88	9.11	10.66	30.38	35.54	30.0	30.0
	ILLINOIS	0	0	67.10	75.56	67.10	75.56	100.0	100.0
	INDIANA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	_ -
	IOWA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	KANSAS	32.75	50.34	0	0	32.75	50.34	0	0
	KENTUCKY	38.25	49.00	0	0	38.25	49.00	0	0
-	LOUISIANA	14.98	20.62	14.98	20.62	,29.96	41.24	50.0	50.0
	MAINE	O	0	24.68	36.36	24.68	36.36	100.0	100.0
	MARYLAND	4.98 5.00	8.28 8.34	44.72 45.10	47.00 47.34	49.70 50.10	55.28 55.68	90.0 90.0	85.0 85.0
	MASSACHUSETTS	5.61	4.03	43.82	36.30	49.43	40.33	86.7	90.0
	MICHIGAN	0	0	53.16	70.49	53.16	70.49	100.0	100.0
	MINNESOTA	43.08	48.85	0	0	43.08	48.85	0	0
	MISSISSIPPI	12.15	25.00	0	0	12.15	25.00	0	0
	MISSOURI	27.50	35.50	1.50	3.00	29.00	38.50	5.2	7.8
/	VTANA	36.89	41.00	0	0	36.89	41.00	0	0

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-		RETI	REE ONLY	COVERAGE	(CONT'D.)				
	COST TO	RETIREE	COST TO STATE TOTAL COST		PERCENT OF TOTA COST PAID BY STA				
STATE	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983_	1984		1984	
NEBRASKA	_	_	_	-	-	-	-	-	
NEVADA	43.08	53.39	20.70	24.84	63.78	78.23	32.5%	31.8%	
NEW HAMPSHIRE	0	0	30.41	37.21	30.41	37.21	100.0	100.0	
NEW JERSEY	25.70	55.30	0	0	25.70	55.38	0	0	
NEW MEXICO	32.08	42.04	0	0	32.08	42.04	0	0	
NEW YORK	0 5.92	0 7.76	44.43 53.24	44.84 69.88	44.43 59.16	44.84 77.64	100.0 90.0	100.0 90.0	
NORTH CAROLINA	0	0	47.80	47.80	47.80	47.80	100.0	100.0	
NORTH DAKOTA	26.97	44.00	0	0	26.97	44.00	0	0	
OHIO	0	0	42.37	51.10	42.37	51.10	100.0	100.0	
OKLAHOMA	34.00	45.90	0	0	34.00	45.90	0	0	· · · ·
OREGON	29.12	31.06	0	0	29.12	31.06	0	0	
PENNSYLVANIA	0 0	. 0 . 0	26.14 33.59	37.21 47.91	26.14 33.59	37.21 47.91	100.0 100.0	100.0 100.0	
RHODE ISLAND	22.65	30.63	0	0	22.65	30.63	0	0	
SOUTH CAROLINA	0	0	50.50	50.50	50.50	50.50	100.0	100.0	
SOUTH DAKOTA	N/A	47.84	0	. 0	N/A	47.84	0	0	
TENNESSEE	35.01	35.01	0	0	35.01	35.01	0	0	
TEXAS	0 5.92	0 6.81	44.43 53.24	62.93 72.00	44.43 59.16	62.93 78.81	100.0 90.0	100.0 91.4	
UTAH	37.00	43.00	0	0	37.00	43.00	0	0	
VERMONT	4.46	5.49	13.38	16.49	17.84	21.98	75.0	75.0	
VIRGINIA	31.26	77.80	0	0	31.26	77.80	0	0	
WASHINGTON	30.53	35.74	0	0	30.53	35.74	0	0	
WEST VIRGINIA	5.99	26.00	13.96	0	19.95	26.00	70.0	0	
WISCONSIN	44.10	48.79	0	0	44.10	48.79	0%-sick] credits m used to p premiums	nay be	
WYOMING	34.10	39.22	0	0	34.10	39.22	0	0	
VIRGIN ISLANDS	13.60	14.88	13.60	14.88	27.20	29.76	50.0	50.0	

MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS TO STATE EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS: 1983 AND 1984

Table 3 (Cont'd.)

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We believe that this is necessary as Montana is one of the twenty remaining states, that has not considered health insurance for the retiree. Twenty (20) states now have a 100% fully funded program.

A retired person now must pay federal income tax on his retirement income. If the retired people had a paid health program, the additional income would not become taxable income.

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We believe that this is necessary as Montana is one of the twenty remaining states, that has not considered health insurance for the retiree. Twenty (20) states now have a 100% fully funded program.

Kate D. Kanies an Curtisa Limen Jeuglas Marks. kes Judy Murp Geanne Jamson Maura tagg Charleto Fberd L Stylo Mark L elly tack Thier Hedain Û Nous A. Mits rang ES. Wina n all Henry E Elles

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NAME Greg Mayes Orethen Mitschke Don. Harman

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