

Senate Rules Committee
April 16, 1985

Senator Van Valkenburg called the meeting of the Senate Rules Committee to order with all members being present.

Senator Van Valkenburg stated that the four issues the committee needed to address were the following bills: House Bill 473; House Bill 904; House Bill 950; and House Bill 954.

Senator Van Valkenburg stated that the upcoming Saturday would be the 80th Legislative day and that the rules suspension applied only to bills needed to meet the 70th Legislative day deadline (i.e., appropriation or revenue bills).

HOUSE BILL 473

Senator Van Valkenburg asked Representative Pavlovich for opening comments on House Bill 473, the "Veterans Preference" bill.

Representative Pavlovich, sponsor of House Bill 473, stated that the bill was an appropriations measure. Additionally, he claimed that although the bill should be considered an appropriations measure, the fiscal note was inflated and should not be as high as the estimated \$300,000 quoted on the fiscal note attached to the bill.

Senator Stephens asked Ellen Feaver, Director of the Department of Administration, if she considered House Bill 473 to properly be considered an appropriations bill.

Ellen Feaver stated that the fiscal note attached to the bill was actually a deflated estimation, in her opinion. Ms. Feaver stated that her office estimated the cost to be about \$1,000,000 per year to implement. These figures were consistent with the actual cost incurred by the state of Idaho upon implementation of a comparable law.

Senator Williams stated that the main concern he had in regards to the bill was to be certain the bill has a chance to be fully debated on the floor of the Senate.

Senator Crippen asked Representative Pavlovich what key changes between this and legislation resulting from the special session existed.

Representative Pavlovich stated the following differences:

1. Deletion of divorced and widowed spouses of veterans from the legislation;
2. Cities and towns deleted; and
3. Page 9, line 15, delineated a specific point preference to disabled people, allowing a 5 point preference to veterans and a 10 point preference to the disabled.

Senator Crippen noted that the bill was deleting school districts and asked Representative Pavlovich if University systems would be left in the bill.

Representative Pavlovich affirmed that University systems would be left in the bill.

Senator Christiaens reminded the committee that the purpose of consideration of the bill was to determine if it should or should not be considered an appropriations measure for purposes of meeting the 70th Legislative day deadline.

Senator Stephens stated that in his opinion, House Bill 473 should be considered an appropriations measure for purposes of meeting the 70th Legislative day deadline and should be placed on 2nd reading in the Senate.

Senator Crippen questioned the discrepancy between the estimated costs to implement the bill.

MOTION:

Senator Stephens made a motion to rule that House Bill 473 be considered an appropriations measure and as such should be brought before the Senate for consideration.

The question was called. The motion was voted on and carried with four Senators voting "aye" and Senator Crippen voting "no".

HOUSE BILL 904

Senator Van Valkenburg asked why there was no fiscal note attached to the bill.

Representative Winslow stated that the bill references appropriations in its title so he'd felt comfortable that it would be accepted by the Senate.

Representative Winslow further stated that at the present time, language had been placed into House Bill 500 which better addressed the concerns he'd tried to address in House Bill 904. Representative Winslow stated that he would not pursue the passage of House Bill 904, and would request that someone on the committee make a motion to table the bill.

MOTION:

Senator Crippen made a motion to table House Bill 904.

The question was called. The motion passed unanimously.

HOUSE BILLS 950 AND 954

Senator Van Valkenburg briefly explained to the committee that House Bills 950 and 954, introduced by Representative Janet Moore and Representative Fred Thomas, respectfully, were the two secession bills. He further stated that the bills had originally carried fiscal notes of \$1,000 each, but when they left the House and came to the Senate, the fiscal notes had been changed to \$1 per bill. Senator Van Valkenburg then asked the sponsors of the bills to address the committee on these matters.

Representative Moore spoke first stating that her main purpose in sponsoring House Bill 950 was to put the question to the people for a vote. She stated that the fiscal note quoting \$1,000 was the more accurate estimate according to the County Commissioners in Missoula who agreed with the larger figure due to ballot/printing costs.

Representative Thomas stated that he supported Representative Moore's position on the fiscal note and would request that the \$1,000 estimation be reinstated.

Senator Van Valkenburg then asked if any witnesses would like to testify.

Elizabeth Frieze, Chair of the secession movement in Clinton, expressed her support of House Bill 950, and complained that the Missoula County offices "won't listen" to Clinton.

Pete Benner, Lolo, stated his support for House Bill 954, and told the committee that he'd checked with the Missoula County Commissioners on the fiscal note and they'd estimated the cost to be \$2,000, so the supporters of the bills decided to "split" the cost.

MOTION:

Senator Crippen made a motion that the Senate Rules Committee rule that House Bills 950 and 954 should properly be considered appropriations bills and as such should be given to the President of the Senate to be placed in a committee.

The question was called for. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Senator Christiaens moved that the Senate Rules Committee adjourn. The question was called; the motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.


SENATOR VAN VALKENBURG, Chairman