

DAILY ROLL CALL

HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

49th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1985

Date March 28, 1986

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
IVERSON, REP. DENNIS (Chair)	✓		
KADAS, REP. MIKE (Vice Chair)	✓		
ADDY, REP. KELLY	✓		
ASAY, REP. TOM	✓		
COBB, REP. JOHN	✓		
DRISCOLL, REP. JERRY	✓		
GARCIA, REP. RODNEY	✓		
GRADY, REP. ED	✓		
HARP, REP. JOHN	✓		
JONES, REP. TOM	✓		
KRUEGER, REP. KURT	✓		
MILES, REP. JOAN	✓		
MOORE, REP. JAN	✓		
O'HARA, REP. JESSE	✓		
PETERSON, REP. MARY LOU	✓		
RANEY, REP. BOB	✓		
REAM, REP. BOB	✓		
SMITH, REP. CLYDE	✓		

HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 28, 1986

A meeting of the House Natural Resources Committee was held on Friday, March 28, 1986, in Room 312-1 of the Capitol Building, beginning at 3:15 p.m. The meeting was called to order by CHAIRMAN REP. DENNIS IVERSON. Members present were REPS. MIKE KADAS, KELLY ADDY, TOM ASAY, JOHN COBB, JERRY DRISCOLL, RODNEY GARCIA, ED GRADY, JOHN HARP, TOM JONES, KURT KRUEGER, JOAN MILES, JAN MOORE, JESSE O'HARA, MARY LOU PETERSON, BOB RANEY, BOB REAM, and CLYDE SMITH.

VICE CHAIR REP. KADAS opened the meeting to public hearing on Senate Bill 9. SEN. JACK GALT, the chief sponsor, was not present and REP. IVERSON presented the bill. The intent of SB 9 is to provide funding to enable the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation to issue additional general obligation water development bonds.

The department is currently authorized to issue \$10 million in water development bonds and has a special debt service fund attached to enable it to do so. The account is funded by coal tax receipts. At present, there are 140 projects that have the potential for loans if new bonds are issued. All of the proposed projects are agricultural. However, because of a shortfall in coal receipts, the debt service account has insufficient money to enable the issuance of more bonds.

REP. IVERSON explained that the bill would give the department the authority to redirect the repaid loan funds to the debt service account. The funds are moving from one account to another and will have no impact on the general fund.

JO BRUNNER, Montana Water Development Association, strongly supported the bill.

There were no opponents.

REP. RANEY asked what type of projects are built with these funds? REP. IVERSON answered that the current projects are hydro, dam, and ditch repair.

REP. ASAY asked how much money is involved? STEVE SCHMITZ of the department said approximately \$100,000 for each of the next two fiscal years will be transferred. These funds are from proceeds of existing loans. When new loans are made and repayment received, those funds will also go into the account. The authorization is for up to \$10 million of bonds with about \$600,000 is of additional debt service account money needed.

REP. KADAS mentioned there is a shortfall in the coal tax receipts and asked if it would be possible to sunset the changes offered in SB 9. REP. IVERSON said it is difficult to project coal revenues and the borrowers need to be able to depend on long range planning and financing. He did not feel sunsetting the bill would be a good idea.

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REP. O'HARA MOVED DO PASS on SB 9. The motion was SECONDED by REP. ASAY.

REP. KADAS MOVED to amend the bill by adding a sunset date of July 1, 1987.

REP. COBB felt the amendment would stop the program because the department would wait until the sunset date passes before doing more loans. He mentioned there will be a full session prior to the proposed July 1, 1987 date and that would be the time to review the bill, if necessary.

REP. KADAS felt the bill needs to be reviewed and that the public should be allowed to participate in the process.


REP. GRADY disagreed with the amendment saying new water systems are long range projects. He said it requires a great deal of planning to build these projects.

REP. KADAS withdrew his motion.

The DO PASS motion PASSED unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



REP. DENNIS IVERSON, CHAIRMAN

Ellen Engstedt, Secretary

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

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Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on Natural Resources

report Senate Bill 9

☐ do pass
☐ do not pass

☒ be concurred in
☐ be not concurred in

☐ as amended
☐ statement of intent attached

Dennis Iverson

Chairman