

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HUMAN SERVICES AND AGING COMMITTEE
50TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The meeting of the Human Services and Aging Committee was called to order by Chairman Budd Gould on February 7, 1987 at 12:30 a.m. in room 312-D of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL 571

REP DAILY introduced HB 571 which would raise from 16 to 18 years the age of children covered by the offense of endangering the welfare of children. He stated the purpose of the legislation is to deal with the problem of adults giving alcohol to teens between the ages of 16 and 18.

PROPOSERS

ROBERT MCCARTHY, Butte-Silver Bow County Attorney, stated the Montana Association of Counties (MACo) had endorsed the bill, which was intended to protect children. He noted this legislation was a broader statute than is currently written to deal with those adults who supply, promote, or encourage the use of intoxicating substances and well as those individuals who contribute or encourage delinquency (specifically runaways) without the consent of the child's parents or guardians. He stated this legislation carries no penalty for children, only for adults.

BOB BUTOROVICH, Sheriff, Butte-Silver Bow, urged support of HB 571 and related instances where adults had purchased liquor for minors and the sheriff's office was unable to charge them for their actions.

ED HEARD, Attendance Officer, Butte-Silver Bow, urged support of this legislation to deal with the situation of runaways. He said many times the runaways are found harbored in the same places, particularly young girls.

SUE FIFIELD, stated her 16 year old son was on the streets, and urged the committee to put this legislation in place to deal with those individuals responsible for encouraging and harboring runaway children.

OPPOSERS

There were no opposers.

REP DAILY closed the testimony on House Bill 571.

REP KITSELMAN expressed his concern with this legislation and its impact on people in the business of protecting children, and those children in foster homes without parental consent; would this legislation somehow expose them to criminal liability because of actions they might take to help children. Mr McCarthy stated those children in foster homes are placed by court order. He noted he did not have a definite answer to Rep Kitselman's concerns, but reminded that him that the element of criminal intent was involved, which could not be proved in the case of a non profit agency or child protective services. He further explained that the court levied the fines, never in the range of less than \$100, and the real problem with the law was that most of the children involved are generally 16 or 17 years of age and the current law is not applicable.

In response to a question from Rep Sands, Mr McCarthy stated it would be easier to get a conviction under this statute than under 45-5-623 MCA because the current law states the law enforcement agency must prove the individual either sold or gave the substances to a child, and the case is lost for failure of proof. This legislation states "encourages the use", which can be proven by other evidence other than statements by the minor or adults as required by the current law.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL 536

REP GERRY DEVLIN introduced HB 536 which is intended to eliminate the license requirement for operation of a food establishment by a nonprofit organization for a period of less than 14 days in one (1) calendar year. He stated the legislation continues to require the operation be in compliance with the remaining provisions of the chapter dealing with health provisions. He noted the legislation only removes the \$30.00 fee for the nonprofit organizations. He said the fiscal note shows a loss of \$527 to the general fund, but there is also a loss of \$2,983 to health inspection agencies.

PROPOSERS

There were no proposers.

OPPOSERS

There were no opposers.

REP DEVLIN then closed the testimony on HB 536. He asked for time to contact the Department of Health concerning a

proposed amendment before executive action was taken on the bill, if possible.

REP CORNE' expressed his concern on the establishment of a food service activity that would not be inspected because they would not be required to procure a license. Rep Devlin replied this was possibly the concern from the department; that an activity be validated by the local health officer before operation.

In response to an inquiry from Rep Corne', Rep Devlin said he would be willing to amend the bill to require a license for operation as long as there was no cost involved for the nonprofit organization.

REP NELSON stated he thought the confusion lied in the fact that this refers to a license, and a license implicitly requires a fee. He said if the word "fee" was inserted in the appropriate places, including in the title, the confusion could probably be eliminated. Rep Devlin concurred.

REP KITSELMAN stated he was interested in the bill's impact on those nonprofits who go over the 14 day a year limit in the legislation. Rep Devlin stated he was willing to amend the bill to expand this area, as long as the \$30.00 fee was removed for a part time nonprofit food provider.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL 542

REP BRADLEY began testimony on this legislation which would limit employable persons to six (6) months eligibility for general relief. She explained the state cost for the general assistance (GA) in the 12 assumed counties had increased from \$3 million in the 81/83 biennium to a projected \$10 million in the current 85/87 biennium. She stated the legislature has been struggling with a variety of approaches to try to get a handle on the burgeoning cost of assistance to the state, and that there is no handle on it now, and there hasn't been anything put together that the courts considers fair. Rep Bradley expressed the subcommittee's agony in withholding benefits from disabled individuals that should be receiving services but can't because of a revenue shortage and the fact that this program has been sopping up too much of the money that is available. She then explained the charts (exhibit 1) describing three (3) classes of individuals delineated in the legislation: employable, potentially employable, and unemployable. exhibit 2 contains amendments to the bill at the request of the sponsor.

PROPOSERS

RODNEY FREY, Project Work, Lewis and Clark County, strongly endorsed the bill as a positive bill that complements and completes the process begun by HB 12, specifically by redirecting the primary emphasis away from able bodiedness back to employability as a criterion and addressing the needs and barriers of the clients involved. He explained the parallels between the Project Work Program in Lewis and Clark county and this proposed bill for the committee's consideration.

JIM MURRY, Executive Secretary of the Montana AFL-CIO, read his prepared testimony (exhibit 3) in support of HB 542. He expressed his main concern that the legislation places the burden of a stagnant job market and a crumbling economy on the backs of those least able to carry the load. He stated the fact remains that Montana, along with 30 other states, holding half the population of this country, are currently on the brink of economic collapse. He added that the bill does not address the fact that there simply aren't enough new jobs for those who desperately need jobs and are willing to work. He encouraged amendments which would continue general assistance past the proposed statutory limit of six (6) months.

CHRIS CHAPMAN, Helena Citizens for Human Dignity, expressed her support of the majority of the improvements in the proposed legislation, but expressed opposition to the termination of benefits after six (6) months. She stated you can't work if there isn't a job market.

SHELIA HUNTER, Helena Citizens for Human Dignity, expressed support for the legislation and expressed concern for those on general assistance with children.

BARBARA ARCHER, Women's Lobbyist Fund, expressed support for the bill with some reservations. She noted the organization had not had time to scrutinize the new amendments and would withhold judgement on them. She said the bill provides a much needed corrective to HB 12, but expressed concern dealing with extenuating circumstances where technically employable people simply cannot find employment because it is not available. She asked the committee to remain open to fine tuning of the legislation which would ensure that some individuals do not slip through the cracks.

MIKE MURRAY, Chemical Dependency Programs of Montana, spoke in support of the bill as amended.

DENNIS SULLIVAN, Butte Community Union (BCU).

EARL ANDRES, Butte Community Union.

JIM SMITH, Human Resources Development Councils (HRDC), expressed his support for the bill and the amendments, including the six (6) month limitation.

SUE MOHR, Administrator, Employment Policy Division, Department of Labor.

STEVE HALL, general assistance recipient.

JUDY CARLSON, Montana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, stated the bill was very well thought out and urged support.

SUE FIFIELD, Montana Low Income Coalition, addressed the affect the bill would have on general assistance families, and stated she did not believe a person should be terminated from the GA program unless they had a job that paid subsistence wages with a minimum of health benefits.

OPPONENTS

DAVE LEWIS, Administrator, Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services (SRS), explained the two (2) differences between the current situation and the proposed legislation. He stated the legislature, in special session, passed a law that limited GA to two (2) months for able bodied individuals, and under current rules, those who have an infirmity caused by alcohol or drug abuse would not be considered able bodied. Mr Lewis noted that under this bill, if an individual was unable to read at a certain level, they would be considered unemployable. Under existing law they would be sent to a doctor, again if they were found not to have an infirmity, they would be considered able bodied, without consideration of their educational level. He said this would make more people eligible for GA under the definition of employable. Mr Lewis stated the major difference in the proposed legislation is the extension of the period of eligibility for those people who are found to be employable from two (2) months to six (6) months; a fiscal difference of roughly \$1 million per biennium. Another concern expressed by Mr Lewis was that the 12 assumed counties can do the evaluation for employability because the Project Work Program is in place, whereas in the other 44 counties this program is not in operation and would obligate the County Commissioners to do a much more thorough evaluation in screening clients to determine if they were employable. He said this was in contrast to the current law which indicated the individual would be sent to a doctor and the doctor would determine if they were able bodied. Mr Lewis stated the two (2) months GA law had not been implemented due to a court injunction, and the issue has gone to the Supreme Court with a decision next fall. Mr Lewis stated he was not

arguing those people did need assistance, but added the reason this issue was brought up the first time was that there wasn't money to fund services for disabled people. He said he had argued from the beginning that if the department had to set priorities within the social services programs, it would be the able bodied people, or the employable people, depending on the definitions used, that would have to be considered as the lowest priority. He continued that if the department didn't have enough money to provide services to those people who are disabled, mentally retarded, or families with AFDC children, cuts would need to be made in other areas to provide funding for these programs.

REP BRADLEY closed testimony on HB 542 by stating this was an approach that would stand up to a constitutional test because it was so meticulously drawn, while addressing the concerns everyone has raised for several years.

In response to a question from Rep Cody, Rep Bradley said parents with children could generally meet the standards for the AFDC program if they were ineligible for the GA program.

In response to questions from Rep Cody, Rep Bradley stated this is not a retroactive law; the six (6) months start running only at the time you are considered employable after the act becomes effective. Those considered potentially employable go through the assessment process, and the clock doesn't run until the time you are considered employable. The six limit is within any 12 month period. She added the definition of "potentially employable" is included in the amendments (exhibit 2).

In response to a question from Rep Cody, Mr Lewis stated there are 200 families with children on GA and 10,000 families receiving AFDC. One requirement for AFDC is that they have at least \$50 worth of earnings in the last six (6) of the 12 quarters. Those families who cannot document that level of earning are placed on the GA program. Mr Lewis continued and responded to a question from Rep Simon on the current lawsuit and the issue of definitions or that the state did not have the right to set the limits. Mr Lewis stated the district court decision ruled any sorting was an arbitrary sorting, i.e. able/disabled, age, etc, leaving the basis of eligibility up to the judge.

In responding to a question from Rep Sands, Rep Bradley stated she was trying to set up a system that was fair and that will withstand a constitutional test, and in the meantime save money.

Responding to an inquiry from Rep Cody, Mr Lewis stated the screening would have to be done in the 44 counties that are

not state assumed as stated on page 1 line 18 of the bill. Rep Bradley noted 90% of the caseload was in the 12 assumed counties, with only 10% distributed over the other 44 counties. Sue Mohr, responding to Rep Cody, stated the 44 counties could be dropped from the screening process. Rep Bradley stated she could see no problem with that suggestion; but the change could funnel more individuals to the assumed counties.

In responding to a question from Rep Russell, Jim Smith noted there is a migration of individuals from the 44 counties to the 12 state assumed counties, and if an individual lived outside a state assumed county that offered them more services they should be encouraged to locate in a state assumed county.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL 555

REP JACK SANDS, Billings, introduced HB 555 which would authorize the Board of Medical Examiners to establish a program for impaired physicians. He stated the fiscal note reflects a budget of \$116,000 which will be generated by a fee assessed on doctors.

PROPOSERS

MAURICE HAMILL, President and Executive Secretary, Montana Board of Medical Examiners, stated in the past five (5) fiscal years from 1983 through 1987 there was a total of 20 reports of alleged impairment of physicians in the state. He stated there were three (3) new ones in fiscal year 1987, while 11 are being monitored at this time. He added these physicians are dealt with on an individual basis. He concluded by saying there was a need for a very viable program to maintain satisfactory and competent care for the people of Montana, especially the small communities who rely on one (1) or two (2) doctors.

ED BERT, Board of Medical Examiners, spoke in support of the legislation. In 1977 there was legislation passed stating individuals could report cases of impaired physicians to the board with immunity. He elaborated on the services provided for impaired physicians through the board and the need for expansion of the current service delivery system.

JERRY KOHN, Billings, Board of Medical Examiners, stated the board has the authority to establish this program to help impaired physicians, but needs this specific authority, not implied authority. Mr Kohn said the licensing fee increase to physicians would amount to \$41.00 per year.

EILEEN ROBBINS, R.N., speaking on behalf of the Montana Nurses' Association, read her prepared text in support of HB 555 (exhibit 4).

BILL LEARY, representing the Montana Hospital Association, expressed their support for HB 555.

KATHERINE KLEINKOPF, Missoula, Board of Medical Examiners, urged support of HB 555.

OPPONENTS

There were no opponents.

REP SANDS closed the testimony on HB 555.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - HOUSE BILL 555

REP SQUIRES made a motion that House Bill 555 DO PASS.

A voice vote was taken and the motion PASSED unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - HOUSE BILL 571

REP DAILY made a motion that House Bill 571 DO PASS.

A voice vote was taken and the motion PASSED unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - HOUSE BILL 543

REP DAILY made a motion that House Bill 543 DO NOT PASS.

A voice vote was taken and the motion PASSED, with Rep Sands and Rep Gilbert voting no.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - HOUSE BILL 490

REP DAILY made a motion that House Bill 490 DO NOT PASS.

A voice vote was taken and the motion PASSED unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Budd Gould, Chairman

DAILY ROLL CALL

HUMAN SERVICES AND AGING COMMITTEE

50th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1987

Date FEB. 7. 1987

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
REP. BUDD GOULD, CHAIRMAN	X		
REP. BOB GILBERT, VICE CHAIRMAN	X		
REP. JAN BROWN	X		
REP DUANE COMPTON	X		
REP. DOROTHY CODY	X		
REP. DICK CORNE'	X		
REP. LARRY GRINDE	X		
REP. STELLA JEAN HANSEN	X		
REP. LES KITSELMAN	X		
REP. LLOYD MC CORMICK	X		
REP. RICHARD NELSON	X		
REP. JOHN PATTERSON	X		
REP. ANGELA RUSSELL	X		
REP. JACK SANDS	X		
REP. BRUCE SIMON	X		
REP. CAROLYN SQUIRES	X		
REP. TONIA STRATFORD	X		
REP. BILL STRIZICH	X		

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

FEBRUARY 7, 19 67

Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on HUMAN SERVICES AND AGING
report HOUSE BILL NO. 555

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> do pass | <input type="checkbox"/> be concurred in | <input type="checkbox"/> as amended |
| <input type="checkbox"/> do not pass | <input type="checkbox"/> be not concurred in | <input type="checkbox"/> statement of intent attached |

W. BUDD GOULD,

Chairman

AUTHORIZING IMPAIRED PHYSICIAN PROGRAM

B
FIRST

WHITE

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STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

FEBRUARY 7, 19 37

Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on HUMAN SERVICES AND AGING
report HOUSE BILL NO. 571

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> do pass | <input type="checkbox"/> be concurred in | <input type="checkbox"/> as amended |
| <input type="checkbox"/> do not pass | <input type="checkbox"/> be not concurred in | <input type="checkbox"/> statement of intent attached |

REP. R. BUDD GOULD, Chairman

RAISE FROM 16 TO 18 THE AGE OF CHILDREN WHOSE WELFARE MAY BE ENDANGERED

B
FIRST

WHITE

reading copy (_____)
color

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

FEBRUARY 7, 19 87

Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on HUMAN SERVICES AND AGING
report HOUSE BILL NO. 400

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> do not pass | <input type="checkbox"/> be not concurred in | <input type="checkbox"/> statement of intent attached |

REP. R. BUDD GOULD, Chairman

PROHIBITING RESTRICTION OF TRUST FUNDS TO QUALIFY BENEFICIARY FOR ASSISTANCE



FIRST reading copy (**WHITE** color)

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

FEBRUARY 7,

19 37

Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on

HUMAN SERVICES AND AGING

report

HOUSE BILL NO. 543

do pass
 do not pass

be concurred in
 be not concurred in

as amended
 statement of intent attached

REP. R. BUDD GOULD

Chairman

ALLOWING RECOVERY OF GEN RELIEF OR AFDC BENEFITS FROM ESTATE OF RECIPIENT

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color

Vol 1
2-7, -27
HB 5/2 Bradley

Employable

was gainfully employed
in last 2 years
under 65
no mental/medical disorder
no drug impairment
reading skills
not a caretaker

6 months limit

Must participate in job
search, training, work program
(HB 12)

Potentially Employable

under 65
not infirm (handicap
that impairs)
serious job barriers
such that not employable
at this time

Report to Agency { Job Training
HRDC
Agency requires:

- 1) report to job search when
become employable
- 2) assessment, testing, plan, address
barriers (counseling, etc.)
(to extent funding is available)

Unemployable

other

General Relief Assistance
Annual reevaluation

affiliated
J 27-81
H B 547

February 7, 1987

House Committee on Health and Human Services

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 542
(requested by sponsor)

1. Page 3, line 23.
Following: "(d)"
Strike: remainder of subsection (3)(d)
Insert: "has completed 4 years of high school or the equivalent or scores at the eighth-grade level on a basic skills achievement test that assesses reading, math, and language skills;"

2. Page 5, following line 15.
Insert: "(11) "Potentially employable" means the condition of a person who is under 65 and is not infirm but has serious barriers to employment that prevent him from being employable at the time he applies for general relief;"

Renumber: subsequent subsections

3. Page 15, line 5.
Following: "determined"
Strike: "not"
Insert: "potentially"

4. Page 15, line 6.
Following: "and is"
Strike: "not"
Insert: "potentially"

5. Page 15, lines 7 and 8.
Following: "report to" on line 7
Strike: remainder of line 7 through "other site" on line 8
Insert: "the agency"
Following: "department" on line 8
Insert: "under 53-3-304(2)"

6. Page 15, lines 9 through 14.
Following: "assessment" on line 9
Strike: remainder of line 9 through "shall" on line 14
Insert: "to"

7. Page 15, line 16.

Following: "rehabilitation"

Strike: "and recommend that he:"

Insert: ". The agency shall require that the person
be enrolled in either:

(1) an established job search and training program
under 53-G-304(3), except that he need not participate
in the job search program under 53-G-304(3)(d) until
the agency determines that he is employable; or"

8. Page 15, following line 16.

Strike: "(1) be enrolled in"

Insert: "(2) to the extent that funding is available,"

9. Page 15, line 18.

Following: "who are"

Strike: "not classified as"

Insert: "potentially"

10. Page 16, line 1.

Strike: "to the extent that funding is available; or"

Insert: "."

11. Page 16, following line 1.

Strike: "(2)"

Insert: "NEW SECTION. Section 8. Programs for recipients
determined neither employable nor potentially employ-
able. A person who is eligible for general relief and
is neither employable nor potentially employable must"

Renumber: subsequent sections.

12. Page 16, following line 4.

Strike: "a quarterly"

Insert: "an annual"

13. Page 16, following line 6.

Strike: "Section 7 is"

Insert: "Sections 7 and 8 are"

14. Page 16, line 9.

Following: "apply to"

Strike: "section 7"

Insert: "sections 7 and 8"

"Grey bill" for pages 15-16

NEW SECTION. Section 7. Programs for recipients determined not POTENTIALLY employable. (1) A person who is eligible for general relief and is not POTENTIALLY employable under 53-3-109 shall report to an employment service office or other site THE AGENCY designated by the department UNDER 54-3-304(2) for an initial assessment by a panel consisting of a representative of the department, a representative of the department of labor and industry, and a licensed psychologist or professional counsellor qualified to evaluate intellectual functioning and to diagnose mental disorders, drug or alcohol abuse, and other barriers to employment. The panel shall ~~to~~ determine whether the person is likely to benefit from counselling, treatment, or rehabilitation and recommend that he: . THE AGENCY SHALL REQUIRE THAT THE PERSON BE ENROLLED IN EITHER:

(1) AN ESTABLISHED JOB SEARCH AND TRAINING PROGRAM UNDER 53-3-304(3), EXCEPT THAT HE NEED NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE JOB SEARCH PROGRAM UNDER 53-3-304(3)(d) UNTIL THE AGENCY DETERMINES THAT HE IS EMPLOYABLE; OR

(1) be enrolled in (2) TO THE EXTENT THAT FUNDING IS AVAILABLE, a program designed specifically for persons who are not classified as POTENTIALLY employable and comprising at least the following elements:

- (a) assessment and testing;
- (b) an employability plan;
- (c) remedial education or job skills training, if it is called for in the employability plan; and
- (d) efforts to address barriers to employment, including counselling, therapy, or vocational rehabilitation to the extent that funding is available; or.

+2+ NEW SECTION. SECTION 8. PROGRAMS FOR RECIPIENTS DETERMINED NEITHER EMPLOYABLE NOR POTENTIALLY EMPLOYABLE. A PERSON WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR GENERAL RELIEF AND IS NEITHER EMPLOYABLE NOR POTENTIALLY EMPLOYABLE MUST be maintained as a general relief recipient as long as he is eligible under 53-3-205 without further testing, assessment, training, or rehabilitation, subject to a quarterly AN ANNUAL reevaluation by the panel.

NEW SECTION. Section 8+ 9. Codification instruction. Section 7-19 SECTIONS 7 AND 8 ARE intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 53, chapter 3, part 2, and the provisions of Title 53, chapter 3 apply to section-7 SECTIONS 7 AND 8.

NEW SECTION. Section 9 ~~10~~. Extension of rulemaking authority. Any existing authority of the department of social and rehabilitation services to make rules on the subject of the provisions of this act is extended to the provisions of this act.

NEW SECTION. Section ~~10~~ 11. Effective date. This act is effective July 1, 1987.

- end -



Box 1176, Helena, Montana

JAMES W. MURRY
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

ZIP CODE 59624
406-442-1708

2-1-87
HB 542

TESTIMONY OF JIM MURRY ON HB 542 BEFORE THE HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES AND
AGING COMMITTEE, FEBRUARY 7, 1987

MR. CHAIRMAN, MY NAME IS JIM MURRY AND I AM HERE TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF
OF THE MONTANA STATE AFL-CIO IN SUPPORT OF HB 542. THIS BILL WISELY
PROPOSES TO USE EMPLOYABILITY AS A CRITERIA FOR GENERAL ASSISTANCE
ELIGIBILITY. ALSO, THIS BILL PROVIDES NECESSARY REHABILITATION FOR
CERTAIN RECIPIENTS OF GENERAL ASSISTANCE BEFORE THEY ARE CONSIDERED
EMPLOYABLE.

WE APPLAUD BOTH PROVISIONS, PARTICULARLY THE ONE WHICH ACKNOWLEDGES
THAT DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE, MENTAL DISORDERS, EMOTIONAL ILLNESSES
AND ILLITERACY ARE LEGITIMATE BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT. THE BILL IS
PROGRESSIVE IN ITS EFFORTS TO HELP PEOPLE OBTAIN AND KEEP JOBS BY
PROVIDING COUNSELING THERAPY OR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION.

MY MAIN CONCERN HOWEVER, IS THAT IT PLACES THE BURDEN OF A STAGNANT
JOB MARKET AND A CRUMBLING ECONOMY ON THE BACKS OF THOSE LEAST ABLE
TO CARRY THE LOAD. THE FACT REMAINS THAT MONTANA, ALONG WITH 30
OTHER STATES, HOLDING HALF THE POPULATION OF THIS COUNTRY, ARE CURRENTLY
ON THE BRINK OF ECONOMIC COLLAPSE.

TRAGICALLY, JUST TWO MONTHS AGO, MONTANA EXPERIENCED THE TENTH HIGHEST
RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE NATION. IN HUMAN TERMS, THIS MEANS THAT
33,200 MONTANA MEN AND WOMEN WERE OUT OF WORK. HOWEVER, THIS FIGURE
ONLY INDICATES THE "OFFICIAL" RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND DOES NOT INCLUDE
THOSE FORCED TO TAKE PART-TIME WORK BECAUSE FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT IS
NOT AVAILABLE. IT ALSO DOES NOT CONSIDER THOSE TOO DISCOURAGED BY

OUR SLUMPING JOB MARKETS TO CONTINUE SEEKING FULL-TIME WORK. ACCORDING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, 18,000 NEW JOBS WILL BE CREATED IN MONTANA BETWEEN 1984 and 1990. THIS MEANS AN AVERAGE OF ONLY 3,000 NEW JOBS PER YEAR ARE AVAILABLE. THE BOTTOM-LINE IS THAT, WITH OUR CURRENT UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WE WILL HAVE 11 PEOPLE COMPETING FOR EVERY NEW JOB.

CONSEQUENTLY, THIS BILL DOES NOT ADDRESS THE FACT THAT THERE SIMPLY AREN'T ENOUGH NEW JOBS FOR THOSE WHO DESPERATELY NEED JOBS AND ARE WILLING TO WORK.

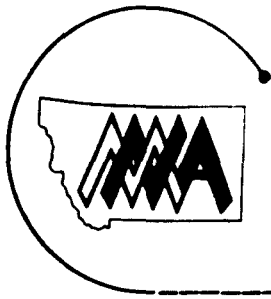
GENERAL ASSISTANCE HAS HISTORICALLY BEEN THE ESSENTIAL LIFE-LINE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN THROUGH THE CRACKS IN THE SYSTEM. IT PROVIDES THOSE WHO HAVE NOWHERE ELSE TO TURN A MINIMUM SUBSISTANCE CONSISTENT WITH DECENCY AND HEALTH.

MR. CHAIRMAN, WHILE SUPPORTING THIS BILL, WE WOULD ENCOURAGE AMENDMENTS WHICH WOULD CONTINUE GENERAL ASSISTANCE PAST THE PROPOSED STATUTORY LIMIT OF SIX MONTHS.

THIS WOULD BE IN KEEPING WITH THE HISTORICAL ROLE OF GENERAL ASSISTANCE. IT WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH RECENT COURT DECISIONS ON THE MATTER AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT WOULD DEMONSTRATE MONTANA'S CONTINUED CONCERN AND COMMITMENT TO ALL ITS CITIZENS.

AS THE LATE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING SAID "IN OUR SOCIETY, IT IS MURDER, PSYCHOLOGICALLY, TO DEPRIVE A MAN OF A JOB OR AN INCOME. YOU ARE IN SUBSTANCE SAYING TO THAT MAN THAT HE HAS NO RIGHT TO EXIST."

LET US NOT DEPRIVE MONTANANS OF A JOB OR AN INCOME, THEREBY COMMITTING PSYCHOLOGICAL MURDER.



Montana Nurses' Association

~~2001 ELEVENTH AVENUE~~

(406) 442-6710

P.O. BOX 5718 • HELENA, MONTANA 59604

HB 555

The Montana Nurses' Association supports HB 555 which authorizes the Board of Medical Examiners to establish a program for impaired physicians.

The abuse of alcohol and other drugs is a commonly shared occupational hazard of nurses and physicians. It is estimated that the national average of abuse by health care workers is 35%.

Drug addiction is a long term chronic illness; one is never fully recovered. A program for impaired physicians would provide a continuous rehabilitation program designed and administered by peers who have a sincere interest in promoting their recovery.

A program for impaired physicians would indirectly benefit nurses and other health care professionals by providing a role model of the "recovered" impaired physician.

The MNA supports the efforts of physicians to protect the public health by working towards the rehabilitation of impaired physicians.

Please give this bill a DO PASS recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen C. Robbins, R.N.
February 6, 1987

4/14/87
2781
HB 555

VISITORS' REGISTER

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

BILL NO. HR 555 (555)

DATE 12/7/87

SPONSOR FRIDS

NAME (please print)	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
JEROME M KOHN	BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS	X	
E. BERTAGNOLI, M.D.	BOARD OF MEDICINE	X	
Katherine Klump	Board of Health	X	
		X	
Celine Pegg	NY State Bar Assoc	X	
Richard Jones	MMA member, private MD	X	
J. J. [unclear]	[unclear]	✓	
[unclear]		✓	
[unclear]		✓	
[unclear]		✓	
[unclear]		✓	

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR WITNESS STATEMENT FORM
PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.