

DAILY ROLL CALL

HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

50th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1987

Date Dec. 13, 1986

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
HANNAH, Tom (Chairman)	✓		
MARKS, Bob (Vice Chairman)	✓		
ADDY, Kelly	✓		
BROWN, Dave		✓	
EUDAILY, Ralph	✓		
IVERSON, Dennis	✓		
MERCER, John	✓		
RAMIREZ, Jack	✓		
QUILICI, Joe	✓		
VINCENT, John	✓		

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
RULES COMMITTEE
50th LEGISLATIVE SESSION

December 13, 1986

The first meeting of the House Rules Committee was called to order by Chairman Tom Hannah at 12:45 p.m., in Room 415 in the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: All members were present with the exception of Representative Dave Brown who was absent.

Rep. Vincent feels that the committee should assume that all of the language to accommodate the 50/50 split from the 49th legislative session be stricken and the language used in the 48th legislative session be reinserted. Rep. Iverson, however, wished to adopt the language in the 1981 legislative session rules book pertaining to the requirement of a majority vote to bring a killed bill out of committee for debate on the floor of the House. With no objection, the above matter was divided for voting purposes.

Rep. Quilici moved that the Rules Committee recommend to the full House that the language from the Rules of the Montana 49th Legislature -- 1985 be stricken in its entirety and the language used in the Rules of Montana 48th Legislature -- 1983 be reinserted.* The motion was seconded by Rep. Mercer. The question was called, and the motion CARRIED unanimously.

Rep. Marks moved to retain the same committee structure in that the standing committees would be named the same as outlined in the 49th Legislature House Rules. Said motion was seconded by Rep. Ramirez. There being no further discussion, the question was called and the motion CARRIED unanimously.

Rep. Iverson moved that the Rules Committee recommend that a rule be adopted requiring a majority vote on the floor to remove a bill from committee. Said motion was seconded by Chairman Hannah and further discussed. Rep. Vincent spoke against the motion. He feels too much time will be consumed on the floor debating whether or not these bills should be brought out of committee for further consideration. He did say, however, that the present rule is insufficient and not restrictive enough.

It was Rep. Iverson's opinion that there still would remain a time savings in adopting this rule. He pointed out the weaknesses in the signature method. Rep. Addy proposed

to amend the language on page 80 of the Rules of the Montana Legislature - 1985 by requiring 40 signatures instead of the 20 in order to get a bill out on the floor for debate. He and Rep. Vincent are concerned that the minority party would be put at a disadvantage if Rep. Iverson's motion were adopted. Rep. Quilici stated that he is also concerned that the House would spend more time in debate trying to get certain bills out on the floor. He requested more time to consider this proposed rule change.

Rep. Vincent felt that the 40-signature requirement might be a better screening process than a motion made from the floor. Rep. Iverson pointed out that the reason he proposed this rule change was to strengthen the committee process.

The question was called, and the motion CARRIED 6-3 with Reps. Addy, Quilici and Vincent voting "no."

Rep. Vincent brought up the question of limited access to the floor. He feels limited access needs to be more restrictive. Rep. Marks informed the committee that he had previously brought this matter before the Legislative Administration Committee and his recommendation to that committee was that aides and interns should be prohibited from the floor during debate. Other restrictive practices in the past sessions should continue.

Chairman Hannah informed the committee that he intended to make a motion to prohibit lobbyists from the House chambers at all times. This matter was further discussed.

Rep. Iverson felt that the above proposal would be tough to accept as there weren't any other accommodations available to talk with lobbyists. Rep. Quilici agreed with the idea that lobbyists should be somewhat limited to access on the floor, but he wanted the option available to invite them in to talk. Rep. Addy also agreed wholeheartedly with this proposed rule change.

After further discussion, Rep. Ramirez stated that the House needs a clear and absolute rule which would prohibit lobbyists on the floor at all times. On that note, Rep. Addy moved to recommend an amendment on page 77 of the Rules of the Montana Legislature -- 49th Legislature, chapter H2-1 by inserting "." following "prohibited" and striking the remainder of the language. The motion was seconded by Rep. Ramirez and discussion followed.

Rep. Marks spoke against the motion. He feels that members of the House are perceived as being accessible by the public and that perception should continue. Rep. Mercer suggested that perhaps only those lobbyists who are registered should be prohibited from the floor.

Rep. Ramirez doesn't feel this rule is any different than the present 2-hour rule; he thought this rule change would be very beneficial to legislators. It was Rep. Vincent's opinion, however, that there be a middle ground. He thinks lobbyists should be permitted on the floor when specifically invited by a legislator.

The question was called on Rep. Addy's motion, and the motion CARRIED 5-4. (Roll call #1) Rep. Iverson informed the committee that he intended to bring this matter up for reconsideration.

Rep. Marks moved to recommend an amendment on page 76, chapter H1-6 of the Rules of the Montana Legislature -- 49th Legislature by striking "legislative aides and interns". The motion was seconded by Rep. Quilici. There being no further discussion, the question was called, and the motion CARRIED unanimously.

Rep. Mercer brought up the subject having to do with the language which allows spouses and children in the House chambers. Rep. Ramirez moved to recommend a rule change on page 76, section H1-6 of the Rules of the Montana Legislature -- 49th session by striking the language "and children". He feels that spouses should continue to have access to the floor of the House in recognition of the important contribution to the whole process. After further discussion on this subject, the question was called, and the motion CARRIED with Reps. Vincent, Marks, Iverson and Quilici voting "no."

Rep. Marks moved to recommend to the House that it adopt the language used in the Senate Rules section of the Rules of the Montana Legislature -- 49th Legislature (pages 66 & 67, S1-7) as it relates to the persons who may be admitted to the floor during sessions. Said motion was seconded by Rep. Mercer. The question was called, and the motion CARRIED with Reps. Ramirez, Eudaily and Hannah dissenting. The committee wished the minutes to reflect for purposes of intent that the "legislative officers and employees" language does not include aides and interns.

Rep. Vincent moved to strike the revenue estimating rules which were adopted last legislative session. The motion

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was seconded by Rep. Quilici and CARRIED unanimously.

ADJOURN: Pursuant to a motion by Rep. Quilici and there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.


Rep. Tom Hannah, Chairman

*As it pertains to the equal number of representatives in each political party.

