

MINUTES OF MEETING
HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE SENATE

January 13, 1987

The first meeting of the Highways & Transportation Committee was called to order at 1:00 p.m., January 13, 1987, by Chairman Larry Tveit in Room 410, State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: All members were present with the exception of Senator Stimatz and Senator Farrell, who were excused.

Paul Verdon, researcher, was introduced.

COFFEE FOR MEETING: It was decided that each member of the committee would contribute \$2.00 for the coffee fund, and the money was collected from those present.

ADVANCE NOTICE: Posting of committee hearings on the bills will be done five (5) to seven (7) days in advance of the hearing.

MEETINGS: Although the committee is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturdays, they will be meeting only on Tuesdays and Thursdays until just before the first half of the session in late February. There will only be a few meetings on Saturdays during the session.

TOUR OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: There will be a tour of the Department of Highways by members of the Highways & Transportation committee of both the House of Representatives and the Senate. The committee members of these committees will meet with Gary Wicks, Director of the Department of Highways, and other employees of the Highway Department. The committee members will meet at 11:30 and have lunch at the Highway Department before touring the building.

SPONSORS OF BILLS: As the bills arrive in the office of the Highways and Transportation, Senator Tveit, Chairman, will notify each sponsor of his/her bill as it arrives and he will confer with the sponsor as to when he/she would like to have the bill heard in committee. Senator Tveit will then notify the secretary as to the date the sponsor wants the bill heard and then the secretary will post the hearing notice.

TIE VOTES: Senator Tveit, Chairman, told the committee that when they vote on a bill in committee, if there is a tie, the bill will remain in committee. He then advised them that any


senator could "Blast" the bill out of the committee and place the bill on the floor of the Senate for discussion. He said that this would have to be done by any senator during Order of Business No. 6 during session. Any bill that fails in committee will come out of committee with an adverse (DO NOT PASS) committee report.

QUESTIONS FROM COMMITTEE AS TO VOTING: Senator Hager asked if proxies, or write in votes would be allowed if a member of a committee would be absent due to a death in a family, or if the member was called out of town. If a member knew he was going to be absent from a hearing, he would be allowed to cast his vote. If there was going to be executive action taken on a bill, Senator Tveit, Chairman, would notify the member prior to executive action on a bill so members would be aware of any forthcoming executive action on a bill.

Senator Hager noted that in the Taxation Committee, if a member was going to be absent, he would simply leave a written vote with the secretary. A motion was made and seconded that a signed vote by a committee member be placed in the hands of the secretary prior to executive action.

A discussion was held by the members with regards to the motion that was made and seconded. Assuming after hearing the testimony, and a member was going to be absent, he would be able to cast his vote. Chairman Tveit, stated that they could leave their vote. If a member had not heard the testimony, and he knew how he was going to vote, he could also cast his vote and leave it with the secretary. By leaving his vote with the secretary, he would be able to cast his vote on both the amendments and the testimony. If he had not heard the testimony, and he would like to cast a vote, he would be able to obtain the minutes from the secretary and read the minutes and cast his vote. All members voted in favor of the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 o'clock.



Senator Larry Tveit, Chairman

