

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE  
MONTANA STATE SENATE

February 16, 1987

The tenth meeting of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee met on the above date in room 108 of the State Capitol. Senator Regan, Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. to hear Senate Bill 348.

ROLL CALL: All members were present except Senators Boylan and Bengtson who were absent.

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL 348: Senator Story said right now we are paying fire protection 17 cents as I recall per acre for those of us who have forest sections, timber sections and anyone who has a lot with a cabin on it is paying \$14 and because that is not enough to fund the entire fire protection amount they need, we are falling short a couple hundred thousand dollars. We promoted this bill to spare the general fund, so if this passes you people using the fire protection pay for it and you get away from the general fund to the tune of about \$220,000 during the biennium. The reason I am carrying it is that I probably have more sections of timber than anyone else in the subcommittee, so it leaves me to harvest so I am the one who ought to propose it. This is just a cost saving and if you don't want to add this to the cost of those using it you will pay for it out of the general fund.

There were no further proponents, no opponents, and Senator Regan asked if there were questions from the committee.

QUESTIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE: Senator Himsl said, if you are in a fire district now you are paying for it. We are paying an assessment for a fire district, we're paying an assessment for the forest service too. I am talking about lake shore property that has timber on it. Senator Story asked if he was paying twice and Senator Himsl said yes, we pay the forest fee and then because we are in a rural fire district we pay that.

Senator Regan asked Senator Story, as I understand this it raises it from 17 cents to 20 cents an acre, and from \$14 an acre to \$17 an acre and you can buy it or get out.

There were no further questions.

DISPOSITION OF SENATE BILL 348: Motion by Senator Haffey that Senate Bill 348 do pass. Voted, 2 absent and Senator Himsl voting no.

RECONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL 216: Senator Regan said that Senator Jacobson would like to keep SB 216 alive for a while to see if something couldn't be done since she felt this was such a vital area. Some of the committee had said they would reconsider if they could find money, and in fairness to Senator Jacobson I told her I would allow her a couple of minutes.

Senator Jacobson said she felt the bill was so vitally important and since the committee doesn't know what our financial status is going to be on down the line there may be a chance to look at some other areas and fund it. She said she felt the fiscal note indicated there is a need for care for these pregnant women and she would hate to have to explain to a child that they didn't get the care and therefore they would have to go through life with their problems. What I would like to do is to keep the bill alive for now and maybe it will die for lack of funds, but --.

Motion by Senator Harding to reconsider, voted, passed, Senators Tveit and Hammond voting no.

Senator Smith asked if it was the intention to leave the bill lay in the committee or what? Senator Regan said, this is not an appropriation bill, it has to meet the deadline, but it will give us a little time to find out what is happening in those other subcommittees.

Senator Story said, I serve on that Human Services subcommittee and it is emotional wracking thing I have ever had to do. Our problem, we have 28 different options, and the reason we are spending more on medicaid in Montana than most of the surrounding states is we opt for more options. We have tried from time to time to tell them "you get this much money, you pick the options you want" but all efforts have been failures. Right now our medicaid budget in the general fund function is as big as the whole state budget was in 1969. One way or another we have to contain this.

Senator Himsl said he was not sure he understood what it was. He said, those under the poverty level, the AFDC (Aid for Dependent Children) they are all taken care of. This particular group is the group that is above the general assistance one and may be above the poverty level that are medically indigent, and it is a group that is above that other group. It is another tier of service, making eligible some that aren't in this lower bracket.

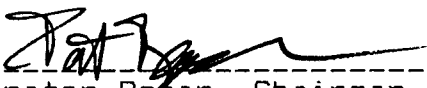
Senator Regan said, I wish some of you could have seen Charles Kuralt's vignette on Sunday morning. He dealt with

this very problem and the percentage of babies that you can save versus what happens when you do not have this kind of care, but that, I guess is really the issue.

Senator Jacobson said, this is women who are below the poverty level but above AFDC. It is strictly taking care of their medical needs that have to do with their pregnancy, period.

Senator Regan said we do have the bill on the table and we will not settle it tonight. We have a couple of people missing and we will have one other meeting to deal with a couple of bills still coming up.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

  
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Senator Regan, Chairman



# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

February 16 ..... 19 87

MR. PRESIDENT

We, your committee on FINANCE AND CLAIMS

having had under consideration..... SENATE Bill No. 348

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**ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT ON FOREST LAND FOR STATE FIRE SUPPRESSION  
FUNDING**

Respectfully report as follows: That..... SENATE Bill No. 348

DO PASS

XXXXXXXX  
DO NOT PASS

..... Senator Pat Regan Chairman.