

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
51st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND HIGHWAYS

Call to Order: By Chairman Quilici, on January 27, 1989, at  
8:09 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: All members were present with the  
exception of Sen. Regan.

Members Excused: Sen. Regan.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Clayton Schenck, LFA  
Flo Smith, OBPP  
Mary Liedle, secretary

Announcements/Discussion: Rep. Quilici announced that the  
committee would resume executive action on the  
Department of Justice budget.

DISPOSITION OF DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE: DRIVER SERVICE BUREAU  
Tape No. 36A

Discussion: The committee discussed the need for summer  
driver's examiners. Sen. Tveit commented that the  
request was on the bottom of the agency's priority  
list.

No Action Was Taken.

DISPOSITION OF DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE: HIGHWAY PATROL  
OPERATIONS

Tape No. 36A

Motion: Rep. Nisbet moved to add an additional \$20,000 per  
year in contract services for prisoner per diem.

Discussion: Rep. Quilici asked Mick Robinson to discuss the issue. Mick said the dollar amount included would bring the total to the projected amount that will actually be spent. Marc Racicot commented that there are mandatory sentences on DUI. While there are some things the department can do to decrease pre-trial costs but even if a person is put in overnight, they still have a mandatory 24 hour sentence afterward. The cost is \$20 per prisoner per day.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: The motion PASSED unanimously.

Motion: Sen. Tveit moved to approve \$24,500 each year of the biennium for hazardous waste removal.

Discussion: Rep. Quilici asked how critical the removal is at this point. Marc Racicot said it is speculative but the department worries about placing the state in a position of liability. The tanks have been examined and have been recommended for removal. They've been in the ground for 10-12 years at the minimum. Rep. Swysgood asked if there were any leaks discovered when the tanks were examined. Mick Robinson said one was pulled out of Baker and one out of Jordan and gas was running out when water was running in. There was discussion regarding monitoring costs that would be incurred if the tanks are not removed.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: The motion PASSED with Rep. Swysgood voting nay.

Motion: Rep. Swysgood moved to grant the request for gasoline at \$21,265 each year of the biennium.

Discussion: Mick Robinson said the request for gasoline increase is due to the anticipated increase in the number of patrolmen on the highways.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: The motion PASSED unanimously.

Motion: Rep. Swysgood moved to approve rent for tower sites at \$8,570 each year of the biennium.

Discussion: Clayton Schenck told the committee the agency originally requested \$40,000 more than is included in current level for rent. They are only making an issue of the \$8,570 needed for tower sites.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: The motion PASSED unanimously.

Motion: Rep. Swysgood moved to approve the requested increase for repairs and maintenance at \$10,100 each year of the biennium.

Discussion: Mick Robinson said with the anticipation of more patrolmen on the highways, there will be additional vehicles and thus, a need for increased repair and maintenance. Rep. Swysgood commented that the executive budget has decreased the maintenance on the vehicles \$16,000 below LFA and asked how much the agency currently has in the budget for vehicle maintenance. Clayton Schenck said there is \$155,000 per year included for vehicle maintenance and that is \$10,100 below what the agency requested. The reduction by the executive was below the base amount.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: The motion PASSED unanimously.

Motion: Rep. Swysgood moved to approve \$100,000 in FY90 only for the purchase of new weapons.

Discussion: Rep. Swysgood asked the agency to address the weapons issue. Colonel Griffin said the majority of the weapons currently in use were purchased in 1969. Some have been replaced but they are outmoded and outdated. The weapons are worn out. Rep. Swysgood asked what 9mm the department is looking out. Colonel Griffin said they have tried out the Smith and Wesson and the Glock. Rep. Swysgood asked how many weapons will have to be purchased. Colonel Griffin said they need at least 215. Clayton Schenck asked for clarification as to whether this \$100,000 would be in addition to the \$900,000 already included in the equipment portion of the LFA budget. Rep. Quilici said yes, this would be in addition to the \$900,000 and would bring the total equipment budget to \$1 million in FY90 and \$900,000 in FY91.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: The motion PASSED unanimously.

Discussion: The committee discussed the modified requests for the Highway Patrol Operations Program. The two modifications included a request for 2 FTE communications technicians and a request for 6 FTE highway patrol officers. Rep. Quilici asked if the 6 patrol officers would bring the force to 206. Clayton Schenck said there are currently 200 allowed in LFA current level and 3 on the 65 mph squad. The additional 6 would bring the overall total to 209.

Sen. Tveit asked what the cost would be. Rep. Quilici said for the additional patrolmen it would be \$295,638 in FY90 and \$201,422 in FY91 and for the communications technicians, \$102,764 in FY90 and \$82,764 in FY91.

No Action Was Taken.

Motion: Sen. Tveit moved to approve \$56,600 in FY90 for additional cadet training.

Discussion: The agency is asking for authorization to train 25 cadets in FY90 instead of 15 to fill the expected vacancies. There are 16 vacancies now and the agency expects an additional 9 vacancies within the year.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: The motion PASSED with Rep. Nisbet voting nay.

DISPOSITION OF DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE: HIGHWAY PATROL  
COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM

Tape No. 36B

Motion: Rep. Nisbet moved to reinstate 2 communication technicians at \$33,876 each year of the biennium.

Discussion: There was discussion regarding the need for these technicians. Rep. Quilici commented that the agency currently has two technicians and is requesting the reinstatement of the other 2 FTE. Marc Racicot said currently the agency has 1 technician and 1 highway patrol officer helps out. It was noted that these would be full time grade 8 positions formerly filled by cadets.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: The motion PASSED unanimously.

Motion: Rep. Swysgood moved to approve \$30,000 per year for increased usage of the 800 number.

Discussion: Sen. Tveit asked if the requested increase is due to increased costs of the number. Marc Racicot explained that the number was initiated last year. Mr. Racicot said it was begun after the legislature adjourned. However, it is the only means the public has for communicating with the highway patrol. It started at \$400 per month and now costs more than \$2500 per month. Rep. Swysgood asked how much was currently

included in LFA current level for the 800 number. Clayton Schenck said at this time LFA current level include \$36,379 per year. That is FY88 base level.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: Rep. Nisbet offered a substitute motion for \$17,500 in FY90 and \$35,000 in FY91 for increased usage of the 800 number.

The substitute motion PASSED unanimously.

Motion: Rep. Swysgood moved to approve an additional 2 FTE dispatchers.

Discussion: Rep. Swysgood asked what grade the dispatchers would be. The response was that they would be grade 8's. Marc Racicot said that because these are positions that must be manned 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, when patrolmen come in to fill in it involves overtime and taking a patrolman off the highway. These would be full time permanent employees in Missoula and Billings.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: The motion PASSED with Rep. Nisbet voting nay.

DISPOSITION OF DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE: HIGHWAY PATROL MCSAP  
PROGRAM

Tape No. 36B

Discussion: Clayton Schenck pointed out that this is a federally funded program with the exception of a 20% match. About 6% of that is a soft match and the rest of the match is motor vehicle fund. There are no issues as far as the department is concerned.

No Action Was Taken.

DISPOSITION OF DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE: HIGHWAY PATROL 65 MPH  
SQUAD

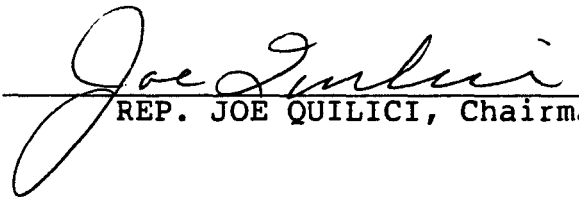
Tape No. 36B

Discussion: Clayton Schenck said this program is entirely federally funded. There were no issues by the department and there are no modifications. The committee already adopted the LFA budget.

No Action Was Taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment At: 10:30 a.m.

  
REP. JOE QUILICI, Chairman

JQ/ml

2322.min

DAILY ROLL CALL

GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND HIGHWAYS

SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE

1/27/89

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Representative Joe Quilici, Chair	✓		
Representative Jerry Nisbet	✓		
Representative Chuck Swysgood	✓		
Senator Larry Tveit, Vice Chair	✓		
Senator Pat Regan			✓
Senator Lawrence Stimatz	✓		

## VISITOR'S REGISTER

Govt: Highways

SUBCOMMITTEE

AGENCY(S) \_\_\_\_\_

DATE 1/27/87

DEPARTMENT \_\_\_\_\_

NAME	REPRESENTING	SUP- PORT	OP- POSE
Mick Rubinsen	Justice		
Marc Racicot	"		
July Brunning	"		
Mike Levin	"		
Col. Bob Griffith	"		
Mike LAVIN	"		

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR WITNESS STATEMENT  
IF YOU HAVE WRITTEN COMMENTS, PLEASE GIVE A COPY TO THE SECRETARY.