

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
51st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND HIGHWAYS

Call to Order: By Chairman Quilici, on March 7, 1989, at 3:34 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: All members were present.

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Pam Joehler, LFA  
Clayton Schenck, LFA  
Flo Smith, OBPP  
Mike Walsh, OBPP  
Mary Liedle, secretary

Announcements/Discussion: Rep. Quilici said the committee had been asked to come back to fine tune and make reductions in the budget for General Government and Highways.

DISPOSITION OF JUDICIARY

Tape No. 63A

Motion: Rep. Swysgood moved to reduce funding of budget/finance officer position (\$18,000 each year of the biennium) in the Boards & Commissions Program to FY88 appropriation.

Discussion: Clayton Schenck explained that this position was overbudgeted. Rep. Swysgood commented that this is not a pleasant thing to have to do, especially since the subcommittee did a thorough job the first time, but considering the direction the committee was given, the position needs to be reduced. Jim Oppedahl, Administrator of the Supreme Court said this is an essential position for Supreme Court operations. He also said it is a position the court has historically had. Rep. Quilici asked how long the position was vacant. Mr. Oppedahl said it was left vacant because the incumbent left in the middle of fiscal 1985 and then when the 2% cuts were required it was used to make that cut.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: The motion FAILED with Rep. Nisbet, Sen. Stimatz and Sen. Regan voting nay.

Motion: Rep. Swysgood moved to delete the Montana Reports at \$24,400 in FY90 and \$25,000 in FY91.

Discussion: Sen. Regan asked if the committee originally included the funding for the Montana Reports because the Pacific Reporter is so much more expensive. Jim Oppedahl said the Pacific Reporter is about 3 or 4 times more expensive. Clayton Schenck explained that in the past 175 copies were purchased and now only the 50 required purchases for distribution to district courts are made. He commented that when cuts have to be made this is always one of the first offered, even by the department.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: The motion FAILED with Sen. Regan, Sen. Stimatz and Rep. Nisbet voting nay.

DISPOSITION OF GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Tape No. 63A

Motion: Sen. Regan moved to delete 1 FTE analyst position at approximately \$35,000 in FY90 and \$36,000 in FY91.

Discussion: Sen. Regan asked how many vacancies the OBPP currently has. Flo Smith said there are two vacancies at this time and some positions are just temporarily filled right now.

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

DISPOSITION OF SECRETARY OF STATE

Tape No. 63A

Discussion: Rep. Nisbet asked what the increase in printing costs is for. Doug Mitchell responded that there are several statutorily mandated printing jobs which must be printed. There are also additional publication expenses during election years. Rep. Quilici asked if these costs are one time costs. Doug Mitchell said some of them are but others are timely publications which must be updated. Sometimes laws change and the changes must be made in the publications.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN

DISPOSITION OF STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

Tape No. 63A

Motion: Rep. Swysgood moved to eliminate the overstated fiscal base for overaccrual at \$14,052 each year.

Discussion: Andy Bennett, State Auditor, said she agreed with the motion. She thought it had been previously removed.

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

Motion: Rep. Swysgood moved to reduce warrant writing system processing costs by 25% (\$27,500 each year).

Discussion: Andy Bennett said this figure was an estimate by ISD. If it's reduced and there isn't enough money the department will have to make a supplemental request.

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

Motion: Rep. Swysgood moved to eliminate the modified for 5 FTE in the insurance division at \$147,684 in FY90 and \$141,365 in FY91.

Discussion: Andy Bennett said the agency originally requested 9 FTE. The five approved by the subcommittee in previous action include 2 investigators, 1 examiner, 1 attorney and 1 administrative assistant. These positions are essential as the number of complaints keeps increasing.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: Sen. Tveit made a substitute motion to eliminate the administrative assistant and one investigator.

There was discussion about how to determine which positions to eliminate and the amount of money involved.

Sen. Tveit withdrew the substitute motion.

Sen. Stimatz made a substitute motion to remove the administrative assistant and leave the other 4 FTE.

The substitute motion PASSED with Rep. Swysgood and Rep. Nisbet voting nay.

DISPOSITION OF DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Tape No. 63A

Motion: Rep. Swysgood moved to eliminate 1.0 FTE office clerk deleted by the Cobb amendment and reinstated by the

subcommittee at \$14,116 in FY90 and \$14,123 in FY91.

Discussion: Marc Racicot said the position was filled in January to handle the backlog. The position is needed but if something in the Department of Justice had to be deleted, this would be what they would give up. It would be hard to catch up the work without it, however.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: The motion FAILED with Sen. Tveit, Sen. Stimatz and Rep. Quilici voting nay.

DISPOSITION OF DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Tape No. 63B

Motion: Rep. Swysgood moved to consolidate the accounting division with centralized services division which would save the cost of a division administrator at a savings of \$38,975 in FY90 and \$38,960 in FY91.

Discussion: Dave Ashley said the administrator of accounting is a full time job. He said it is important to keep this position. Rep. Swysgood asked how long it's been running under one administrator for the two divisions. Dave Ashley responded that it has been that way since January 2nd of this year.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: The motion FAILED with Sen. Regan, Sen. Stimatz and Rep. Nisbet voting nay.

DISPOSITION OF DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Tape No. 63B

Motion: Rep. Swysgood moved to delete 1.0 FTE data entry operator at \$15,036 in FY90 and \$15,047 in FY91.

Discussion: Ken Nordvedt said if the department loses this position they will be running dangerously close to not having enough operators to handle the data.

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

DISPOSITION OF DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

Tape No. 63B

Motion: Sen. Regan moved to eliminate 47% increase for diesel fuel in both the equipment and stores inventory budgets.

Discussion: Jesse Munro said that if this is removed and the funding is required they will have to come in for a budget amendment. Rep. Quilici commented that this is just spending authority and if they need the diesel fuel they have to be able to get it.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: The motion PASSED with Sen. Stimatz and Rep. Quilici voting nay.

DISPOSITION OF CENTENNIAL OFFICE

Tape No. 63B

Motion: Sen. Regan moved to grant spending authority for the money received through a grant from Burlington Northern and approve hiring 1.0 FTE.

Discussion: Mary Jo Murray said the office is planning a centennial float, publishing a monthly newsletter and will need help with processing the requests to use the centennial logo. Rep. Swysgood asked what the office would do with the money if they didn't hire an additional staff person. Mary Jo Murray said since the grant was just received last week they haven't had time to prioritize. The request was their first thought about what is important for the operation of the centennial office and programs. There was discussion about whether this should be line-itemed. Sen. Tveit said there's no reason to line-item it since this is a one time event.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment At: 4:45 p.m.

  
REP. JOE QUILICI, Chairman

DAILY ROLL CALL

GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND HIGHWAYS SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE 3/7/89

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	✓		

GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND HIGHWAYS  
 OPTIONS FOR BUDGET REDUCTIONS

	GENERAL FUND REDUCTIONS		OTHER FUND REDUCTIONS	
	FY 90	FY 91	FY 90	FY 91
<b>JUDICIARY</b>				
<b>Supreme Court Operations</b>				
1. Eliminate funding for the Montana Reports	\$24,400	\$25,000		
2. Eliminate Modified for Clerk of Supreme Court increases	\$13,842	\$5,550		
<b>Boards and Commissions</b>				
1. Reduce funding of Budget/Fin. Officer to FY 88 Approp	\$11,856	\$11,862		
<b>Law Library</b>				
1. Eliminate 1.0 FTE, transfer admin. duties to Supreme Court Administrator	\$18,000	\$18,000		
<b>GOVERNOR'S OFFICE</b>				
<b>Executive Office</b>				
1. Eliminate Centralized Services additional staff	\$19,210	\$15,206	\$10,000	\$10,000
<b>OBPP</b>				
1. Delete additional staff	\$43,522	\$36,048	\$0	\$0
<b>NWPP</b>				
1. Delete additional staff	\$0	\$0	\$61,512	\$61,512
<b>SECRETARY OF STATE</b>				
<b>Records Management</b>				
1. Eliminate increases for printing costs	\$21,078	\$25,909		
<b>STATE AUDITOR</b>				
<b>Audit Division</b>				
1. Eliminate overstated fiscal 1988 base for overaccrual	\$14,052	\$14,052		
2. Eliminate Modified for Warrant System Remodeling	\$41,989	\$1,000		
3. Eliminate Modified for P/P/P On-Line Conversion	\$204,000	\$0		
4. Reduce Warrant Writing System Processing Costs 25%	\$27,500	\$27,500		
<b>Insurance Division</b>				
1. Reduce Actuary Salary to FY 88 Approp level (G/F impact)			\$19,954	\$19,941
2. Eliminate Modified for 5.0 FTE increased insurance regulatory staff (General Fund impact)			\$147,684	\$141,365
<b>DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE</b>				
<b>Driver Services Bureau</b>				
1. Eliminate 1.0 Office Clerk deleted by Cobb Amendment, reinstated by subcommittee	\$14,116	\$14,123		
<b>Highway Patrol Division - Operations</b>				
1. Eliminate equipment increase for guns/holsters			\$100,000	\$0
2. Eliminate increase for toll free emerg. number			\$17,500	\$35,000
3. Eliminate Modified for 2.0 FTE Dispatchers			\$33,892	\$33,892
<b>Criminal Investigation Bureau</b>				
1. Eliminate Modified for 1.0 FTE General Investigator	\$52,815	\$40,839		
<b>Forensic Science Division</b>				
1. Eliminate Modified for Nest King Expansion (G/F impact)			\$62,400	\$8,400
<b>DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION</b>				
<b>Accounting Division</b>				
1. Consolidate Accounting Division with Centralized Svcs Division saving the cost of a div. administrator	\$38,975	\$38,960	\$0	\$0

GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND HIGHWAYS  
 OPTIONS FOR BUDGET REDUCTIONS

	GENERAL FUND REDUCTIONS		OTHER FUND REDUCTIONS	
	FY 90	FY 91	FY 90	FY 91
<b>DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE</b>				
Data Processing Division				
1. Delete 1.0 data entry operator added in modified budget	\$15,036	\$15,047	\$0	\$0
Income Tax Division				
1. Delete 1.0 Tax examiner (that was part of Cobb motion) reinstated by subcommittee	\$20,778	\$20,762	\$0	\$0
<b>DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS</b>				
General Operations				
1. Eliminate funds for map digitizing (CADD)			\$88,100	\$87,100
Maintenance				
1. Eliminate Modified for Rest Area Maintenance by RFP			\$119,660	\$119,660
Equipment				
1. Eliminate 47% increase for diesel fuel			\$268,723	\$244,610
2. Eliminate increase for equipment repair parts			\$114,364	\$114,364
Stores Inventory				
1. Eliminate 47% increase for diesel fuel			\$269,329	\$245,237
G.V.M.				
1. Eliminate additional 1.0 FTE GVM Officer			\$22,572	\$22,572
<b>DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS</b>				
Administration Program				
1. Delete .50 FTE clerical support position added in modified budget	\$8,480	\$8,483	\$0	\$0
Army Guard				
1. Delete .50 FTE clerical support position added in modified budget	\$8,480	\$8,483	\$0	\$0
Air Guard				
1. Delete 1.0 maintenance worker added in modified budget	\$4,322	\$4,313	\$17,287	\$17,252
<b>Total Options</b>	<b>\$602,451</b>	<b>\$331,137</b>	<b>\$1,352,977</b>	<b>\$1,160,905</b>