

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 51st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

Call to Order: By Chairman Gene Thayer, on January 17, 1989, at 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chairman Thayer, Vice Chairman Meyer, Senator Boylan, Senator Noble, Senator Williams, Senator Hager, Senator McLane, Senator Weeding, Senator Lynch.

Members Excused: Senator Meyer and Senator Hager

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Mary McCue, Legislative Council

Announcements/Discussion: None

HEARING ON SENATE BILL 98

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor: Senator Gary Aklestad, District 6, stated he was there to present Senate Bill 98. He cited the bill as an effort, by the County Treasurers, to alleviate a problem they have concerning the annual renewal of mobile home tax stickers. The stickers were issued at the time taxes were paid, and were to be displayed as a visual aid to assessors. In many cases, the sticker was not displayed as intended, and therefore, served no purpose. Dispensing the stickers cost money. It took time to dispense, and aided no one.

Senate Bill 98 would allow the individual, intending to move a mobile home, to apply for a sticker indicating paid-up taxes. Transition of the mobile home being the only time a sticker was necessary. Otherwise, the mobile home owner would pay taxes in the same manner as any other home owner, with no sticker issued.

Senator Aklestad pointed out that some home owners, who bought larger, nicer double-wide homes, resented having to display the sticker. Thus, the stickers failed to properly indicate tax status as intended. "This is the gist of the bill", he said.

The bill allows a sticker to be issued for transit of a mobile home. It doesn't take care of the situations, across the state, which involve weekend mobile home movement or other such questionable tax situations. Such movement has been a tough situation, but SB 98 does not address the transit issue.

List of Testifying Proponents and What Group They Represent:

Senator Vaughn, Senate District 1
Cort Harrington, Representing Montana Treasurers Assoc.
Bonnie Tippy, Montana Manufacturer of Housing
Recreational Vehicle Assoc.

List of Testifying Opponents and What Group They Represent:

None

Testimony:

Senator Vaughn stated she had spoken to treasurers in her area and they all were very supportive of the bill. She said the sticker they have had to fill out in the past doesn't really accomplish anything. She cited the fact, "If those people want to move their trailer, without the moving permit, they're going to move it anyway. I hope you will support this bill."

Bonnie Tippy said, "We are in support of this bill for all the reasons you have heard previously. Just as a technical matter I discussed this briefly with Senator Aklestad. Representative Pavlovich has House Bill 12 introduced and already heard in the House. It serves to remove the requirement for tax paid stickers altogether."

"The argument we would make, simply, is that before people can move their homes out of the county they're supposed to have a moving declaration. Before they can get a moving declaration they have to have their taxes paid in full. We don't know that they absolutely need the stickers at all. However, we would ask this committee if they could hold SB 98 to see what happens with HB 12. Then we can coordinate those bills, so one isn't suspending what the other one is doing. But, we are in support of the bill."

Cort Harrington said he represented the County Treasurers Association, who had requested this bill. "We are in support, for the reasons already stated. With respect to the reference Bonnie Tippy made, the Treasurers,

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also would have no objection if you eliminated the need to have tax paid stickers at all..... If the Committee wanted to amend the bill, to eliminate the requirement that tax paid stickers be paid at all, the Treasurers would have no objection. That way, you could coordinate it with Representative Pavlovich's Bill."

Questions From Committee Members: Senator Lynch asked Senator Aklestad what his feelings were. Do you want the committee to hold the bill, or seek passage. Senator Aklestad replied, "if the committee feels it would be okay to hold the bill, go ahead." He had no real problem with removing the sticker completely, except for the fact that it may necessitate the Highway Patrol to make an actual physical stop. When moving on the highway, sticker removal wouldn't facilitate the Patrol's visually checking mobile homes in transport.

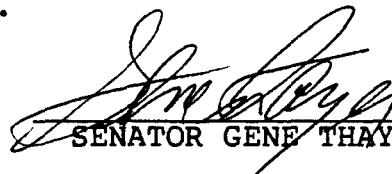
Cort Harrington said he knew of an instance involving a moving declaration being purchased in Missoula County, where no taxes were owed. Actually, the taxes were due in Mineral County, but the sticker had already been issued elsewhere. A sticker on the window, did not necessarily mean the taxes had been paid.

Chairman Thayer stated, "Senator Aklestad if it is all right with you, I think the committee would probably like to hold SB 98. It seems there is little point in having two bills doing exactly the same thing. We could probably do a little further investigation on your concern."

Closing by Sponsor: Senator Aklestad stated, "If the Treasurers feel there is no problem with no sticker at any time, I don't have a problem. If you want to hold the bill and work both into one bill it is fine with me. With that I close."

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment At: 10:37 a.m.



SENATOR GENE THAYER, Chairman

GT/ct

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ROLL CALL

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY COMMITTEE

DATE 1/17/89

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NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
SENATOR DARRYL MEYER			✓
SENATOR PAUL BOYLAN	✓		
SENATOR JERRY NOBLE	✓		
SENATOR BOB WILLIAMS	✓		
SENATOR TOM HAGER			✓
SENATOR HARRY MC LANE	✓		
SENATOR CECIL WEEDING	✓		
SENATOR JOHN "J.D." LYNCH	✓		
SENATOR GENE THAYER	✓		

Each day attach to minutes.

