

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE
51st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

Call to Order: By Chairman Tom Rasmussen, on January 17,
1989, at 4:15

ROLL CALL

Members Present: All

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Bob Person, Director of the Legislative
Council and Elaine Graveley, Secretary

Announcements/Discussion: House Joint Resolution 3

HEARING ON HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 3

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Representative William "Red" Menahan, the sponsor of House Joint Resolution 3, gave a brief summary of the bill. Representative Menahan represents District 67 in Anaconda. HJR 3 is a joint resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the state of Montana concerning the classification, pay, and other conditions of employment of the legislative employees; providing an immediate effective date and a termination date, and providing for retroactive applicability. Representative Menahan stated that HJR 3 would treat the legislative employees same as the state employees. Legislative employees which worked previous sessions would not receive a step increase this session. The state employees had their salaries frozen by the legislature last session. The legislature has permanent employees on the first floor which have their salaries frozen, and they would be working side by side with the temporary employees. Representative Menahan stated that he felt it necessary to treat all the employees the same. If the state workers have their pay freeze lifted after the first of July, the legislative employees will receive the same kind of treatment.

List of Testifying Proponents and What Group they Represent:

None

List of Testifying Opponents and What Group They Represent:

None

Testimony:

None

Questions From Committee Members:

Senator Crippen asked when this bill would go into effect.

Representative Menahan stated that if the legislature would lift the pay freeze it would go into effect on July 1st.

Senator Crippen stated that it appears to him that the state employees would get a raise for one half of year and the legislative employees would not receive a raise.

Representative Menahan stated that he felt it is very important to treat all the employees the same. If there is a special session the former employees would then receive a step increase.

Senator Crippen stated that perhaps all of the employees should be frozen until January of 1991.

Senator Crippen then asked what would happen if the Senate and the House could not agree on HJR 3. The employees would be paid differently in the two houses.

Senator Crippen stated that he thought it was important to send a message to all of the state employees that they will be paid a raise.

Senator Story asked how the employees are being paid at the present time.

John Larson, Secretary of the Senate, stated that the employees were paid under the provision of HJR 4 from the previous session. They have not received a check for work since the actual beginning of session.

Senator Blaylock stated that he felt it would be a grave error to not agree with the House of HJR 3. It

is important to treat all the employees the same.

Closing by Sponsor:

Representative Menahan closed.

DISPOSITION OF HJR 3

Discussion:

Bob Person stated that the whole situation has caused a certain amount of problems in the Legislative Council being as his permanent employees are under the pay freeze and his temporary staff will be paid the same as the legislative employees. Some people feel very strongly about the situation.

Senator Crippen stated that under the provisions of HJR 3, the legislative employees would not receive any benefits.

John Larson pointed out that the Legislative Council employees start employment at step 1, legislative staff start employment at step 2.

Senator Mazurek stated that many of his constituents are state employees affected by the pay freeze and he would have a problem giving a raise to the legislative staff until the state pay freeze is lifted.

Senator Rasmussen stated that he was in agreement with Senator Mazurek. Many of his constituents also are state employees.

Amendments and Votes:

Recommendation and Vote:

MOTION: A motion was made by Senator Mazurek that HJR 3, BE CONCURRED IN.

A substitute motion was made by Senator Crippen to amend HJR 3 in the following manner:

Page 3.

Following: line 22

Insert: "Training Coordinator
System Coordinator"

John Larson reported that because of the new computer

system, the Senate has two positions which the House does not have. Chris Racicot and Elaine Graveley are recommended to be listed at a Grade 11 with the titles of System Coordinator and Training Coordinator. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Senator Mazurek to amend HJR 3 to include the Majority Whip and Minority Whip secretaries at a Grade 11. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Senator Crippen that the resolution be amended as follows:

1. Page 2, line 10.
Following: "session"
Strike: "prior to January 1, 1987,"

2. Page 7, lines 8 through 16.
Strike: subsection (9) in its entirety
Renumber: subsequent subsections

Motion failed on a Roll Call Vote, 3-2. See attached exhibits.

A motion was made by Senator Crippen to the resolution as follows:

Page 7, line 9.
Strike: "step"

This would enable the legislative employees to receive a retroactive raise if all the state employees would receive a raise. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: A motion was made by Senator Mazurek that HJR 3 receive a BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED recommendation from the committee. Motion carried unanimously.

SOUND SYSTEM

Don Lyles was present to discuss the problems which the Senate is having with their sound system. Mr. Lyles stated that the main problem with the sound system is that it is very, very old. It keeps being patched and patched to get by, however, the main problem is that a new sound system is needed.

Mr. Lyles stated that he did not have the time it would take to design such a system at the present time. It would be feasible to install over a weekend. He stated that Representative Glaser's firm designed the sound system in the House of Representatives.

Senator Mazurek asked the approximate figure to replace the sound system.

Mr. Lyles stated that the approximate cost would be \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Senator Blaylock stated that the sound system has been slowly deteriorating and should be put out for bids immediately.

MOTION: A motion was made by Senator Blaylock to begin the process for requesting of bids for a new sound system. Appropriate steps should be taken to insure that the proper system be installed. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment At: 5:30 p.m.



SENATOR TOM RASMUSSEN , Chairman

TR/eg

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STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

January 17, 1989

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Legislative Administration, having had under consideration HJR 3 (third reading copy -- blue), respectfully report that HJR 3 be amended and as so amended do pass:

1. Page 3.

Following: line 1

Insert: "Training Coordinator
System Coordinator"

2. Page 3, lines 9 and 10.

Following: "Clerk,"

Strike: remainder of lines 9 and 10 in their entirety

Insert: "and Majority and Minority Leaders and Whips in both the
House and the Senate"

3. Page 7, line 9.

Strike: "STEP"

AND AS SO AMENDED DO PASS

Signed: _____

Tom Rasmussen

Tom Rasmussen, Chairman

*J.C.
1/18/89
2:45 P.M.*

