

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE
51st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND CLAIMS

Call to Order: By CHAIRMAN PETE STORY, on FRIDAY, MARCH 3,
1989, at 8:00 A.M.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Senator Gary Aklestad, Senator Loren
Jenkins, Senator Matt Himsl, Senator Paul Boylan,
Senator Tom Keating, Senator Judy Jacobson, Senator
H.W. "Swede" Hammond, Senator Pat Regan, Senator Larry
Tveit, Senator Dennis Nathe, Senator Greg Jergeson,
Senator Gerry Devlin, Senator Richard Manning, Senator
Sam Hofman, Senator Lawrence Stimatz, Senator Ethel
Harding, Senator Pete Story

Members Excused: Senator Bengtson

Members Absent: Senator Van Valkenburg

Staff Present: Curt Nichols, LFA; Deb Thompson, Secretary

HEARING ON HOUSE BILL 624

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Representative William (Red) Menahan, District 67,
presented House Bill 624. He said the bill would
authorize the Department of Highways to erect signs
identifying scenic loop highways. The loop signs would
enable people to get off the interstate and see the
scenic view and get back on the interstate. He pointed
out that part 2, line 24, was an amendment by the
Department of Highways so that the loop signs would not
be creating a scenic highway.

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 Keating asked why the Department of Highways didn't
put up other signs.

Bill Gosnell, from the Department of Highways, replied that they could put up signs but didn't feel it was the responsibility of the department to put up signs relating to tourism or historical sites. The department feels that those groups should pay for the signs. He cited an example with HB 595 on Indian history that the Historical Society would pay for.

Senator Keating asked who would pay for the scenic loop signs. Representative Menahan replied that the community and city and county would pay.

Senator Nathe asked Bill Gosnell about what happened to the five mile markers. Bill replied that those signs were taken down and replaced with locational signs and milage markers.

Senator Hofman asked who paid for signs in Eastern, Central, and Southern states. Bill replied that most states have formed advisory councils to handle signs. He suggested that the Governor be asked to make a sign advisory council. He discussed the mountain range signs such as the Beartooth Range. He said that the state of Arizona had a system that was being looked at by the department.

Senator Hofman pointed out that it was logical to build the signs in the Department of Highways since the plant was good. Bill Gosnell said the department could do that but would need to be reimbursed from the community or group that wants the sign.

Senator Hammond inquired about making the mountain range signs clearer in order to point out the range.

Closing by Sponsor:

Representative Menahan pointed out that the signs should have more communities represented in order for the traveler to determine what is next. He used the example of the sign southeast of Butte that has Spokane on it but does not direct travelers to points in Montana in between.


DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 624

Recommendation and Vote:

Senator Manning moved that HB 624 Be Concurred In. The question was called the motion Passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment At: 8:22 a.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pete Story".

PETE STORY, Chairman

PS/dt

FCS303

DAILY ROLL CALL

FINANCE AND CLAIMS

COMMITTEE - 1989

DATE 3-3-89

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Senator Gary Aklestad	✓		
Senator Loren Jenkins	✓		
Senator Esther Bengtson			✓
Senator Matt Himsl	✓		
Senator Paul Boylan	✓		
Senator Tom Keating	✓		
Senator Judy Jacobson	✓		
Senator H.W. "Swede" Hammond	✓		
Senator Pat Regan	✓		
Senator Larry Tveit	✓		
Senator Fred Van Valkenburg		✓	
Senator Dennis Nathe	✓		
Senator Greg Jergeson	✓		
Senator Gerry Devlin	✓		
Senator Richard Manning	✓		
Senator Sam Hofman	✓		
Senator Lawrence Stimatz	✓		
Senator Ethel Harding	✓		
Senator Pete Story	✓		