

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 51st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Call to Order: By CHAIRMAN DELWYN GAGE, on MARCH 22, 1989
at 7:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Senator Delwyn Gage, Chairman, Senator Pete Story, Senator Joe Mazurek, Representative Jerry Nisbet, Representative Bill Strizich and Representative Dick Nelson.

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Shirley Herrin, Secretary

Announcements/Discussion: None

LIST OF AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE:

Scott Seacat, Legislative Auditor
Celia Farlan, Consumer Counsel
Mike Trevor, Dept. of Administration
Bob Person, Legislative Council
Deborah Schmidt, EQC

HOUSE BILL 496

Senator Gage announced the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the rejection by the House of the amendments that were proposed by the Senate. He noted that each of the agencies that were involved in the bill were represented at the meeting, and requested that Rep. Jerry Nisbet express the concerns the House had concerning the amendments.

Representative Nisbet stated he was particularly concerned about how the council would work. He noted the planning process would be tedious and somewhat technical and that some of the legislator members of the committee who are directly involved in it would be required to travel to Helena for at least a monthly meeting for the next eight or

ten months, and there may be some reluctance to do that. He then commented that the staff's role is not clear.

Senator Gage said perhaps the staff didn't feel they were going to be involved enough in the process. He suggested the staff members meet and come up with a program and then submit it to the legislative members for their review.

Senator Mazurek noted that it was his concensus as well that the chain of command should be established before it was finally adopted.

Bob Person, Representing the Legislative Council, stated his observation of the situation was that in the past the Legislature had rejected fairly soundly the concept of any kind of centralization or legislative reorganization. He pointed out this bill was an effort to provide a co-ordinative structure, that would co-ordinate six independent agencies; the House, the Senate and the staff agencies that assist them. He reviewed the chain of command within the various agencies, noting that the chain of command in the House and the Senate was less clear, but that the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, and the Legislative Administration Committees have some major role in the decision making process regarding the provision of the kinds of services that serve the Senate. And their decisions have something to do with how much interaction they have with the agencies that have been established to serve the Senate and the House.

Mr. Person stated that with regard to the House and the Senate, the issues are extremely complex, because decisions have to be made regarding how and to what extent the temporary staff of the legislature is going to be outfitted to serve them. He also noted the growing concern of the House and the Senate to be able to provide services to the legislators themselves. He said the question is really how to establish a framework for discussion with the independent entities, to work in a general direction and set a standard within which all of the groups can make their decisions, within their own budget, and with the maximum co-ordination possible.

Senator Gage explained to Mr. Person that the purpose of the meeting was merely to decide whether the Senate amendments should be adopted by the House.

Representative Nisbet asked Senator Blaylock if he had any ideas he would like to add to the discussion. Senator Blaylock replied that setting up a structure to get co-ordination from the legislative groups was a laudable idea. He stressed the importance of communicating through the

computers but noted if the planning process is left entirely up to the staff people and they are in disagreement, then the legislature needs to be able to make the final decision.

Senator Story inquired about the amount of money that was involved in the program and how many systems were being requested. Mr. Person replied that the House had set aside \$145,000 in its budget, and the Senate had set aside \$10,000 or \$15,000, as they only needed to choose a new network software. He noted the Legislative Council is planning expansion of the existing system and the Fiscal Analyst Office is planning to make changes that will better coordinate them with rest of the systems.

Senator Mazurek stated that most of the planning has to be done by the staff people who work with the systems on a daily basis, and what the Senate was trying to say was before they were locked into a policy which all agencies systems would have to conform to, there should be legislative review and approval.

Scott Seacat then recommended to the chairman that the issue be taken to a free conference committee and on page three of the bill the words "directors of legislative staff" be deleted and the insert the words "representatives of legislative committee", and direct that the staff come up with a plan and make a proposal.

After a brief discussion Senator Mazurek moved to dissolve the Conference Committee and request a Free Conference Committee. The motion was seconded by Representative Nisbet and PASSED unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment At: 8:00 a.m.



DELWYN GAGE, Chairman

DG/SH

CONCOM. SH

HOUSE BILL 496

COMMITTEE

Date 3-22-89

Each day attach to minutes.

Free Conference Committee
on HOUSE BILL 496
Report No. 1, March 28, 1989

Page 1 of 3

Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

We, your Free Conference Committee on HOUSE BILL 496 met and considered: HOUSE BILL 496 and the Senate amendments to HOUSE BILL 496.

We recommend that HOUSE BILL 496 (reference copy -- salmon) be amended as follows:

1. Page 2, line 22.
Strike: "policy"
Insert: "planning"
Strike: "(1)"

2. Page 2, line 23.
Strike: "policy"
Insert: "planning"

3. Page 2, line 24.
Strike: "(A)"
Insert: "(1)"
Renumber: subsequent subsections
Strike: "president"
Insert: "secretary"

4. Page 2, line 25.
Strike: "MEMBER"
Insert: "representative"
Strike: "HIM"
Insert: "the president"

5. Page 3, line 1.
Strike: "speaker"
Insert: "chief clerk"

6. Page 3, line 2.
Strike: "MEMBER"
Insert: "representative"

7. Page 3, line 3.
Strike: "HIM"
Insert: "the speaker"

8. Page 3, lines 4 and 5.
Strike: "chairmen of the committees on legislative administration"

ADOPT

REJECT

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Insert: "sergeants-at-arms"

9. Page 3, lines 7 through 9.
Strike: "AND ONE OTHER" on line 7 through "CHAIRMAN" on line 9
Insert: "OR ANOTHER representative of each house designated by the chairman of the legislative administration committee of that house"

10. Page 3, line 11.
Following: "council"
Insert: ", who shall chair the planning council"

11. Page 3, line 20.
Following: "council"
Insert: ", who shall serve as a nonvoting member of the planning council"

12. Page 3, lines 21 through 23.
Strike: lines 21 through 23 in their entirety

13. Page 3, line 25.
Strike: "policy"
Insert: "planning"

14. Page 4, line 1.
Strike: "policy"
Insert: "planning"

15. Page 4, line 3.
Strike: "policy"
Insert: "planning"

16. Page 5, line 10.
Strike: "policy"
Insert: "planning"

17. Page 5, line 11.
Strike: "policy"
Insert: "planning"

18. Page 5, line 14.
Strike: "policies"
Insert: "standards"
Strike: "policy"
Insert: "planning"

19. Page 5, line 16.
Strike: "policy"
Insert: "planning"

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20. Page 5, line 18.
Strike: "policy"
Insert: "planning"


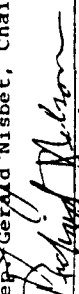

21. Page 5, line 24.
Following: line 24
Insert: NEW SECTION. Section 5. Legislative branch computer system plan -- adoption of standards. The legislative branch computer system plan must be approved and adopted jointly by the legislative administration committees of the senate and the house of representatives."
Renumber: subsequent sections

22. Page 6, line 4.
Strike: "by"
Insert: "in"


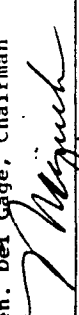

23. Page 6, line 5.
Strike: "policy council that are"
Insert: "plan"

We urge that this Conference Committee Report be adopted.

For the House:


Rep. Gerald Nisbet, Chairman

Rep. Richard Nelson

Rep. Bill Strizich

For the Senate:


Sen. Del Gage, Chairman

Sen. Joe Mazzyek

Sen. Pete Story