

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 52nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

FREE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE BILL 391

Call to Order: By Chairman Tom Towe, on April 10, 1991, at 12:00 noon.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Senator Tom Towe, (D)
Senator Lorents Grosfield (R)
Representative Paula Darko, Chair (D)
Representative Jim Rice (R)
Representative Vivian Brooke (D)

Members Excused:

Senator Mike Halligan (D)

Staff Present: Dorothy Quinn (Committee Secretary)

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Announcements/Discussion:

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HOUSE BILL 391

Discussion:

Discussion centered around the words "spiritual professional" capacity wherein it was questioned whether there are two types of counseling - spiritual and secular. The consensus was that type of distinction would be difficult to make.

Senator Towe suggested as a compromise that the word "professional" be used. Representative Rice commented that the word "spiritual" is difficult to define.

Representative Darko stated that one of the things she wanted to do in this statute change was to make the clergy aware that they do have an obligation, and they are skirting on thin ice if they know child abuse is going on and they do not report it.

Senator Grosfield referred to Page 2, line 16, and asked if the word "or" should be "and". Senator Towe said that particular wording was at Senator Mazurek's request in order to make sure it is protected by Canon Law, and the "or" provides an alternative.

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Senator Grosfield commented that he believes many pastors will welcome this as an excuse for them to come forward with information because they are now obligated by law.

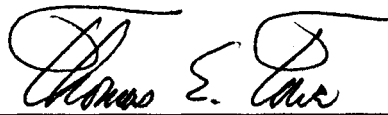
Following further discussion, Representative Darko stated she believed the bill accomplishes what she was hoping to do.

Recommendation and Vote:

Representative Paula Darko made a motion that the House accede to the Senate amendments. Those in favor - 5; opposed - 0; (Halligan absent). MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment At: 12:30 P.M.



TOM TOWE, Chairman



DOROTHY QUINN, Secretary

T7/dq

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Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

We, your Free Conference Committee on House Bill 391 met and considered House Bill 391 (reference copy -- salmon) and recommend that the House accede to the Senate amendments.

And this Free Conference Committee report be adopted.

For the House:

Paula Darko
Rep. Paula Darko, Chair

Vivian Brooke
Rep. Vivian Brooke

Jim Rice
Rep. Jim Rice

For the Senate:

Thomas E. Towe
Sen. Tom Towe

Lorents Grosfield
Sen. Lorents Grosfield

Mike Halligan
Sen. Mike Halligan

ADOPT

REJECT

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ROLL CALL VOTE

Free Conf.

~~SENATE~~ COMMITTEE _____

Date 4/8/91 Bill No. HB 391 Time _____

NAME	YES	NO
SEN. GROSFIELD	X	
SEN. HALLIGAN		
SEN. TOWE	X	
REP. DARKO	X	
REP. BROOKE	X	
REP. J. RICE	X	

Dorothy Quinn
Secretary

SEN. TOM TOWE
Chairman

Motion: Reps. Darko made a
motion that the House
accede to the Senate
amendments. In favor - 5; opposed - 0.