

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 52nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON SB 196

Call to Order: By Chairman Van Valkenburg, on April 23, 1991, at 1:45 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Van Valkenburg (D), Chairman
Sen. Halligan (D)
Sen. Beck (R)
Rep. Strizich (D)
Rep. Brooke (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Thoft (R)

Staff Present: None.

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

Announcements/Discussion: Chairman Van Valkenburg opened the conference committee meeting to discuss House amendments to SB 196 previously rejected by the Senate.

Sen. Van Valkenburg called on Dan Russell with the Department of Institutions to comment on the House amendments. Mr. Russell said the Department supports the language requiring "mutual agreement" between the Department and the counties on rates for housing inmates. In a previous temporary situation, the Department paid some counties \$10 and others \$70 a day without being able to negotiate a cost. He commented that counties vary widely on what kind of costs they include in their daily rate.

Sen. Van Valkenburg asked Rep. Strizich and Rep. Brooke if there was a way to resolve this matter with the House. Rep. Brooke said that the counties needed assurance of fair compensation which was a compelling reason for the amendments. Sen. Beck responded that the original language would require mutual agreement so a county could refuse to take inmates if fair compensation is not agreed on. Rep. Strizich commented that the amendments were needed to get the bill out of committee. Sen. Beck, a former county commissioner, asserted again his position in support of the mutual agreement provision. Rep. Strizich said he agreed with the mutual language, but felt a majority of House members favored the House version.

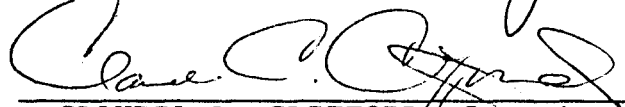
Sen. Van Valkenburg reminded the Committee of the overcrowding problems at the prison and the significant need for the bill. Everyone agreed.

MOTION: Sen. Beck moved that the House recede from its amendments. The motion met with unanimous approval of the members present.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment At: 2:00 p.m.


FRED VAN VALKENBURG, Chairman


CLAUDIA A. CLIFFORD, Secretary

FVV/cac

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on Senate Bill No. 196
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Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

We, your Conference Committee on Senate Bill No. 196, met and considered the House Judiciary Standing Committee Report dated March 7, 1991 and we recommend that the House recede from its amendments.

And that this Conference Committee report be adopted.

For the Senate:

Va Valkenburg
Chair, Sen. Van Valkenburg

Neil Halligan
Sen. Halligan

Sen. Beek
Sen. Beek

For the House:

Rep. Strizich
Chair, Rep. Strizich

Rep. Brooke
Rep. Brooke

Rep. Thoft
Rep. Thoft

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ADOPT

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