

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
52nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & AGING

Call to Order: By Angela Russell, Chair, on January 21, 1991, at 3:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Angela Russell, Chair (D)
Tim Whalen, Vice-Chair (D)
Arlene Becker (D)
William Boharski (R)
Jan Brown (D)
Brent Cromley (D)
Tim Dowell (D)
Patrick Galvin (D)
Stella Jean Hansen (D)
Royal Johnson (R)
Betty Lou Kasten (R)
Charlotte Messmore (R)
Jim Rice (R)
Sheila Rice (D)
Wilbur Spring (R)
Carolyn Squires (D)
Jessica Stickney (D)
Bill Strizich (D)
Rolph Tunby (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Thomas Lee

Staff Present: David Niss, Legislative Council
Jeanne Krumm, Committee Secretary

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

HEARING ON SB 24

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SEN. ROBERT WILLIAMS, Senate District 15, Hobson, stated there was a case in Fergus County where the children refused to pay for the burial of a parent. SB 24 makes it mandatory for children to pay for the burial of a parent.

Proponents' Testimony:

Gordon Morris, Director, Montana Association of Counties, provided a resolution for the committee. EXHIBIT 1

Opponents' Testimony: None

HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES & AGING COMMITTEE

January 21, 1991

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Questions From Committee Members:

REP. KASTEN asked who would enforce this bill and with what action. **Mr. Morris** stated that in section 40-6-303 on page 2 the department states that a civil action may be brought by the county.

REP. KASTEN asked the cost to bring suit against an adult child who refuses to pay for a parent's burial. **Mr. Morris** stated it would take two to three hours to process an order and he didn't know the exact cost.

REP. HANSEN asked if there were more than one child in the family and the parent dies, who would be responsible for the costs. **Mr. Morris** stated that it is the duty of the children, so the county would approach all of them.

REP. CROMLEY said the bill states that the child must have the ability to pay; how is it determined who can or can't afford it. **Mr. Morris** stated that the county welfare office would make that determination.

REP. SQUIRES stated concern that some children may not be able to pay for the burial of a parent. **Mr. Morris** stated then the county would pay.

REP. BROWN stated concern about people whose children can't pay for the burial and so the county would cremate them. There are people opposed to cremation; is there somehow they could state their preference. **Mr. Morris** said the county would take the cheaper way which would be cremation.

Closing by Sponsor: **SEN. WILLIAMS** closed on SB 24.

Julia Robinson, Director, and Bob Frazier, Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS), gave a presentation on Governor Stephens' Health Care Proposals. **EXHIBIT 2**

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:25 p.m.



ANGELA RUSSELL, Chair



Jeanne Krumm, Secretary

AR/jck

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HUMAN SERVICES AND AGING COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL

DATE 1-21-91

**MONTANA
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES**

EXHIBIT

DATE

HB SB 24

1-21-91

2711 Airport Road
Helena, Montana 59601
(406) 442-5209
FAX (406) 442-5238

RESOLUTION 90-24

INDIGENT PARENTS

WHEREAS, the dependence on county poor funds is increasing;
and

WHEREAS, revenues are steady or deceasing; and

WHEREAS, families when possible, have a moral and statutory
obligation to indigent parents.

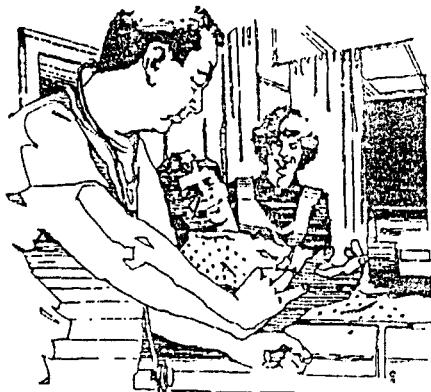
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MACo seek added language
to §40-6-301 MCA to read: Duty of child to support indigent
parents. It is hereby declared and made the duty of every adult
child, having the ability so to do, to furnish and provide
necessary food, clothing, shelter, medical attendance, and burial
and interment costs for his indigent parent or parents, unless,
in the judgement of the court or jury, he is excused therefrom by
reason of intemperance, indolence, immorality, or profligacy of
such parent.

SUBMITTED BY: Districts 6 - 7
Fergus County

APPROVED: ANNUAL CONVENTION
JUNE 13, 1990

PRIORITY: HIGH

MACo



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HEALTH CARE FOR MONTANANS

■ GOVERNOR STAN STEPHENS

■ AGENCY SPONSORS:

Dept. of Health and Environmental Sciences, *Dennis Iverson, Director*
 Dept. of Family Services, *Tom Olsen, Director*
 Dept. of Social and Rehabilitation Services, *Julia E. Robinson, Director*
 Dept. of Institutions, *Curt Chisholm, Director*
 Governor's Office on Aging, *Hank Hudson, Aging Coordinator*

■ JULIA E. ROBINSON, CHAIRPERSON

INTRODUCTION

In the fall of 1990, Governor Stephens appointed a number of working committees to address the problem of access to health care for the uninsured. The committee recommendations were submitted to the Governor in December of 1990.

Upon review of the Final Report, Governor Stephens personally committed to working on successful implementation of the five steps outlined in this summary. Because changing health care is an ongoing process, the final action step is a commitment of executive branch staff and financial resources to continuing the search for solutions to problems in the health care arena.

Governor Stephens believes these steps provide positive, appropriate direction for Montana in addressing the complex issue of health care access. They are not a total solution; just a beginning. Also, we must acknowledge that some changes are not possible instate because of the federal design of the Medicaid and Medicare programs. Potential changes in these programs await Congressional action.

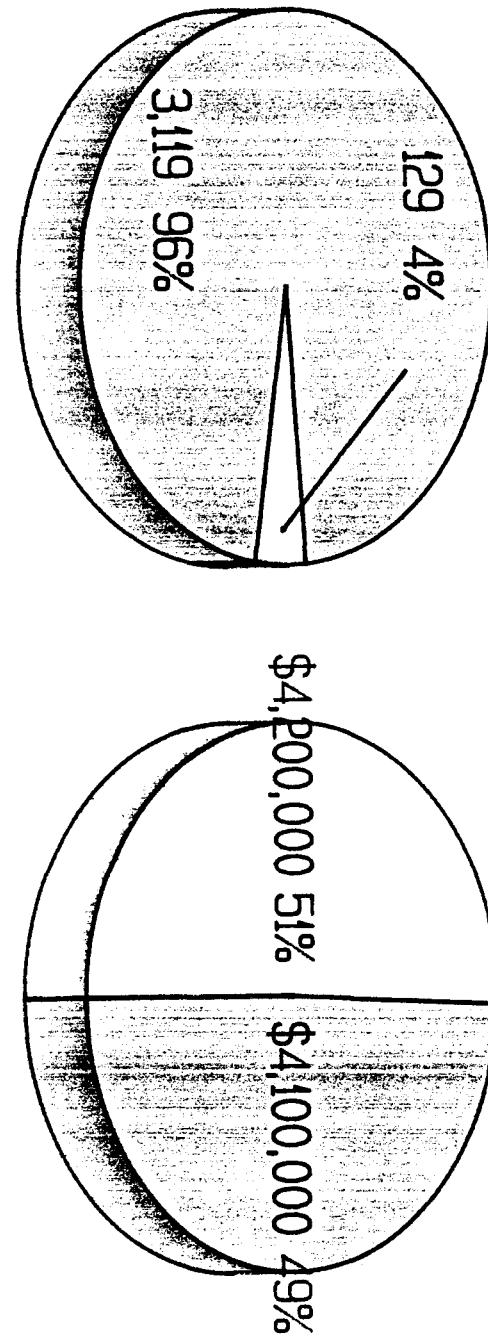
(All committee recommendations are contained in the working committees' Final Report on Health Care for Montanans.)

Copies of the full report are available upon request from the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, P.O. Box 4210, Helena, MT 59601

EXHIBIT 2
DATE 1-21-91
Info. Presentation

Total Infants On Medicaid FY 1988

129 High Cost Infants Cost \$4.2 million, 51% of Total Spent



- Number of Infants Served
- Medicaid Expenditures for Infants
- High Cost Infants
- Normal Cost Infants

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITOR'S REGISTER**

Human Services : Aging

COMMITTEE

BILL NO. SB 24

DATE 1-21-91

SPONSOR(S) Sen. B. Williams

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS
ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.