

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 52nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS & CULTURAL EDUCATION

Call to Order: By WM. "RED" MENAHAN, on January 24, 1991, at 8:00 A.M.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Wm. "Red" Menahan, Chairman (D)
Sen. Dick Manning, Vice Chairman (D)
Sen. Gary Aklestad (R)
Sen. Tom Beck (R)
Rep. Dorothy Cody (D)
Rep. Chuck Swysgood (R)
Sen. Eleanor Vaughn (D)

Staff Present: Sandra Whitney, Senior Fiscal Analyst (LFA)
Mary LaFond, Budget Analyst (OBPP)
Mary Lou Schmitz, Secretary

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

HEARING - VETERAN'S HOME

Bob Anderson, Administrator, Special Services Division, said the Veteran's Home in Columbia Falls is a 150 bed facility for veterans and/or spouses. Ninety beds are licensed for nursing care, 60 beds are licensed for domiciliary care and must meet Medicaid Certification VA Nursing Home requirements. The average daily population in 1990 was 87 in the nursing unit and 38 in the domiciliary unit.

A market adjustment that was implemented the last Biennium put the state up to par with the private sector for nursing wages. Issues at some facilities are: locations and types of patients served. **Mr. Anderson** introduced **Pat Estensen** and **Paul Vendetti** from the Veteran's Home.

Ms. Whitney said the Eastern Montana Veteran's Home is not an issue now, but when the Home is built this Subcommittee will consider operations.

Ms. LaFond said one FTE was deleted because it had been vacant since 1987. She recommended an 0.5 FTE be placed back in the budget. SEN. AKLESTAD asked if money and not FTE is the need. Ms. LaFond said 0.5 FTE and the money should be put back in.

REP. CODY asked about the Lease Revenues. Mr. Estensen said they currently lease 65 acres that is in alfalfa. The crop has been in two years and he is not sure if the present lessee intends to rotate next year but is assuming he will lease again.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON VETERAN'S HOME

Tape No.1, Side A, 340

Motion/Vote: REP. SWYSGOOD moved to accept the LFA budget \$2,623,796 in FY 92 and \$2,652,103 in FY 93. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion/Vote: SEN. MANNING moved to add in the approximately \$12,000 each year for 1.0 FTE Grade 7, Step 2 Aide position. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Discussion: Ms. Whitney said the official classification is Grade 7 for the Aide positions. They have to be protected at Grade 8 but that is a Department of Administration decision.

SEN. BECK asked what it would take to change this problem because if a Grade has been established why can't they stay in the budgets at current level.

REP. CODY asked the difference between the LFA and Executive concerning overtime and related benefits. Ms. Whitney said it is a base difference. The Executive is based on 1991 appropriations which was an estimate made two years ago. The LFA is based on actual. Ms. LaFond said one other difference is holidays worked. The budget office budgets the same 10 holidays each year and there is an extra holiday in 1993 which was not budgeted but the LFA did.

SEN. BECK referred to a Subcommittee discussion in which it appears they are inflating the General Fund liability. It is due to reclassification of employees by the Department of Administration. Hospital Aides have been reclassified to a Grade 7 instead of a Grade 8 yet the cutback is not shown in the base of the budget. The Subcommittee has to add money back into the budget from Grade 7 to Grade 8.

REP. BARDANOUVE said once they are reclassified they remain at Grade 8 and if the Subcommittee finds discrepancies throughout the budget they are to correct them.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON LICENSE PLATE FACTORY

Tape No.1, Side B, 200

Motion/Vote: REP. SWYSGOOD moved to accept the LFA budget, \$447,743 for FY 92 and \$448,105 for FY 93 and add to that base \$17,218 in each year of the Biennium for maintenance contingency. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion: REP. CODY said last session the funds appropriated were from an earmarked account. That account was closed and made it General Fund money. Money has been reverted back into the General Fund every year and the Tag program at the Prison has been a self-paying operation. They have only asked for the authority to spend. In 1990 there was more money reverted because the cost of aluminum was less than projected. Out of that reversion \$37,000 was transferred for the medical program. REP. SWYSGOOD said this has already been anticipated through the process of creative financing. REP. MENAHAN asked if the \$37,000 would appear as a budget amendment or supplemental. Mr. Currie said it shows as an operational plan change done in FY 91 and based on transfer language in HB 100 was able to transfer part of that reversion into the Tag plant to help offset part of the deficit.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON CORRECTIONS ADMINISTRATION

Tape No. 1, Side B, 463

Motion/Vote: REP. SWYSGOOD moved to accept the Executive budget, \$444,014 for FY 92 and \$446,814 for FY 93. **MOTION CARRIED - REP. CODY VOTED NO.**

Discussion: Ms. Whitney reviewed the worksheet and explained operating expenses #2. Messenger services is not an increase or decrease problem but a placement problem. The LFA put the deadhead mail services here and OBPP put it in Central Operations and for accounting purposes it should be there.

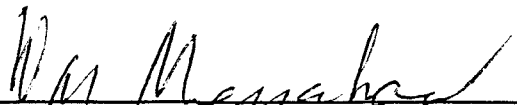
EXECUTIVE BUDGET MODIFICATIONS

Motion/Vote: REP. CODY moved to accept Executive Modification #1, Jail payments - pre-release returns for \$66,990 minus \$870 each year of the Biennium. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Motion/Vote: SEN. BECK moved to accept the Executive Modification #2, Jail placement alternative for \$66,120 each year of the Biennium. **MOTION CARRIED WITH SEN. AKLESTAD AND REP. SWYSGOOD VOTING NO.**

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:00 A.M.



WILLIAM "RED" MENAHAN, Chair



MARY LOU SCHMITZ, Secretary

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
INSTITUTIONS AND CULTURAL EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

ROLL CALL

DATE 1-24-91

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
REP. WM."RED" MENAHAN, CHAIRMAN	✓		
SEN. DICK MANNING, VICE-CHAIRMAN	✓		
REP. DOROTHY CODY	✓		
SEN. ELEANOR VAUGHN	✓		
REP. CHUCK SWYSGOOD	✓		
SEN. GARY AKLESTAD	✓		
SEN. TOM BECK	✓		

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VISITOR'S REGISTER

Institution

SUBCOMMITTEE

AGENCY (S) _____

DATE

1/24/91

DEPARTMENT _____

NAME	REPRESENTING	SUP- PORT	OP- POSE
<i>M. F. Esterson</i>	<i>MT. Vets/HM</i>		
<i>Paul Vendette</i>	<i>"</i>		
<i>Teresa Reardon</i>	<i>MFT / MFSE</i>		

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR WITNESS STATEMENT.
IF YOU HAVE WRITTEN COMMENTS, PLEASE GIVE A COPY TO THE SECRETARY.