

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
52nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & AGING**

**Call to Order:** By Rep. Angela Russell, Chair, on April 10, 1991,  
at 4:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Angela Russell, Chair (D)  
Arlene Becker (D)  
Jan Brown (D)  
Brent Cromley (D)  
Tim Dowell (D)  
Stella Jean Hansen (D)  
Royal Johnson (R)  
Betty Lou Kasten (R)  
Thomas Lee (R)  
Charlotte Messmore (R)  
Sheila Rice (D)  
Wilbur Spring (R)  
Carolyn Squires (D)  
Jessica Stickney (D)  
Bill Strizich (D)  
Rolph Tunby (R)

**Members Excused:** Tim Whalen, William Boharski, Patrick Galvin,  
and Jim Rice

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

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

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 452**

**Motion: REP. KASTEN MOVED SB 452 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Motion/Vote: REP. HANSEN MADE A SUBSTITUTE MOTION THAT SB 452 BE  
NOT CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

**REP. MENAHAN** stated that this bill was going to be put in if  
Galen closed. There were 1,586 people admitted to the Galen  
program and 9 counselors. Of those 1,586 people that were there  
approximately 750 were repeat offenders. The cost per day is  
\$65.35, which includes detoxification. They detoxified 301

people last year in 3 to 5 days each. If this is to be done in the private sector before they go into a private program, it will cost in intensive care \$504 a day. There are a number of things that are not taken into consideration, the number of alcoholics is down, but the number of programs keep increasing. Something has to be done so that we put all of these factors into perspective in the alcohol treatment programs. With the DUI funds, programs have been able to expand, but the states profits are shrinking because less people are buying. We are going to have quality programs, not employment programs for those who start up a program. The success ratio of these programs have to be followed close. There are a number of different things that has to be done. The bill should be made an interim study. This is another way to spread out the money, it isn't needed at this time. Somewhere down the road we should make a thorough study of our programs.

REP. LEE asked if there are any figures on data of the Galen program, compared to what the private programs are doing. REP. MENAHAN stated that they are somewhat equal, and some are better than others. Galen has 60% sobriety within 18 to 24 months. There are also transient people and 600 people who were sent by the courts.

REP. LEE stated there is only so much money available for this particular program. Do you foresee that if we would open this door, would there be a great shift away from Galen. REP. MENAHAN stated that is a possibility. For the type of care we are talking about, we cannot afford to do it in the private sector. The moneys are going away from all of the alcoholic programs because there is less consumption. Those who are drinking are the ones that are the problem drinkers. The detoxification program at Galen cure 301 people in one year.

REP. JOHNSON asked since there are only limited amounts of funds, is there some chance that there would be more funds collected under the statutes in the bill. REP. MENAHAN stated that there isn't enough money for the people that they are going to treat.

REP. SPRING stated that he opposes the bill.

REP. KASTEN stated that DOI should be allowed to contract with the for-profit clinics in the state. There are several more specifically for certain types of individuals. Often in the eastern part of the state we do need to put the people who need programs closer to home. The clinic in Grass Range could be utilized for those people in Eastern Montana. REP. MENAHAN stated that DHES contracts with Francis Mahon Center and one in Glendive, one as an in-patient and one that is an in-patient and out-patient. There are services there and Grass Range is in Central Montana, rather than Eastern Montana. REP. MESSMORE stated that most of those centers are in for-profit. If the department has the latitude to utilize the facilities, which they don't currently, those facilities tend to charge the going rate.

REP. KASTEN stated that most of our people have to go out of state for these programs. Perhaps with Grass Range Center and a specialized program, Eastern Montana people would not have to go out of state.

Vote: Motion carried 13-5 with REPS. JOHNSON, KASTEN, MESSMORE, J. RICE, and TUNBY voting no.

Motion: REP. S. RICE MOVED SB 452 BE TABLED. Motion carried 13-5 with REPS. JOHNSON, KASTEN, MESSMORE, J. RICE, and TUNBY voting no.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:50 p.m.

  
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ANGELA RUSSELL, Chair

  
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Jeanne Krumm, Secretary

AR/jck

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HUMAN SERVICES AND AGING COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL

DATE 4-10-91

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
REP. ANGELA RUSSELL, CHAIR	✓		
REP. TIM WHALEN, VICE-CHAIR			✓
REP. ARLENE BECKER	✓		
REP. WILLIAM BOHARSKI			✓
REP. JAN BROWN	✓		
REP. BRENT CROMLEY	✓		
REP. TIM DOWELL	✓		
REP. PATRICK GALVIN			✓
REP. STELLA JEAN HANSEN	✓		
REP. ROYAL JOHNSON	✓		
REP. BETTY LOU KASTEN	✓		
REP. THOMAS LEE	✓		
REP. CHARLOTTE MESSMORE	✓		
REP. JIM RICE			✓
REP. SHEILA RICE	✓		
REP. WILBUR SPRING	✓		
REP. CAROLYN SQUIRES	✓		
REP. JESSICA STICKNEY	✓		
REP. BILL STRIZICH	✓		
REP. ROLPH TUNBY	✓		