

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 52nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

Call to Order: By WM. "RED" MENAHAN, on April 11, 1991, at 4:20 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Wm. "Red" Menahan, Chairman (D)
Jan Brown, Vice-Chair (D)
Ed Grady (R)
Harriet Hayne (R)
Jerry Nisbet (D)
John Phillips (R)

Members Excused: Representatives Mark O'Keefe and Bill Strizich

Staff Present: Margaret Regan, Sergeant-at-Arms

Mary Lou Schmitz, Committee Secretary

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

HEARING ON HJ 48

A joint resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives, of the State of Montana requesting an interim study by the Legislative Finance Committee of computer services, computer equipment acquisition, and computer applications in Montana State Government; and requiring the committee to report its findings to the 53rd Legislature.

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. JOE QUILICI, HD 71, Butte said this is a Joint Resolution asking the Legislative Finance Committee to look at computer services, computer equipment acquisition, and computer applications. Earlier in the session they went in for a supplemental for the computer network system and put in \$1,200,000 for a new computer system in the state. The Legislative Finance Committee will study this during the interim and in checking found there would be no added cost to them. They could work with the Department of Administration, (ISD) and the Legislative Audit Committee for a study to find out exactly how computers are needed, how they are used and to make sure, when they are ordered, they are compatible with others in the system. More computers are needed for today's technology. But the Legislature should have a handle on what direction they are taking and then set that direction.

Questions From Committee Members: REP. HAYNE asked how many different computer types are in the system? REP. QUILICI said he did not know about the computers but there are several types of PCs.

REP. GRADY asked if the intent will be to centralize systems in the agencies and department? REP. QUILICI said that is exactly right. Mike Trevor and his department (ISD) have the technology and personnel to help the various agencies and departments' efficiency at less cost to the state.

REP. PHILLIPS said we are in the computer age, even young school children are learning to operate computers, so the Committee's goal and recommendation should be a large, centralized system for every agency to access. REP. QUILICI said absolutely, as the state computer system consists of the Capitol Complex, Armory, Courts of limited jurisdiction and offices for vehicle registration. The counties are also tied into them but some of the County Assessors, funded through state money, get their own computers rather than go through ISD. He would like those people to have a good system which is right for various counties but wants to make sure that system is compatible after a couple years so more money will not go into their systems when it is not necessary. This happened to telecommunications but now they are unified.

REP. JAN BROWN referred to Page 4, Line 16 "methods of funding investments" of the Bill and asked what was in mind for the study, available money or grants the state could apply for? REP. QUILICI said it means the investment the state is using for processing computer systems throughout the state. They are all proprietary funds and when they are built in various agencies somebody has to pay for it. Some is paid by general fund money, some is by state special, some is by Highway Department, state and federal special. The methods of funding have to be looked at to see if those funding agencies using state and federal special are going for more computers than those generally funded.

REP. PHILLIPS said the amount of paper used just in the Capitol will eat up the timber industry.

REP. NISBET said the Legislative Branch Computer Planning Council that was established last session has developed a plan for the legislative branch as far as the computer and data processing needs. One of the areas that Council will continue to examine over the interim is to help alleviate the paper work.

REP. JAN BROWN asked how that will tie in with this? REP. QUILICI said this Resolution is broad enough they can look into that specific aspect.

Closing by Sponsor: REP. QUILICI thanked the Committee for the hearing.

HOUSE LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

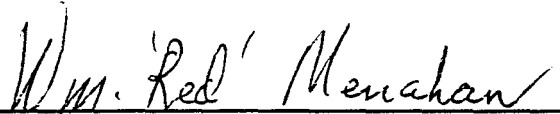
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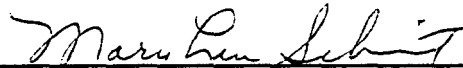
Motion/Vote: REP. PHILLIPS moved DO PASS on HJ 48. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:55 P.m.



WILLIAM "RED" MENAHAN, Chair



MARY LOU SCHMITZ, Secretary

WM/MLS

DATE 4-11-91

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Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on Legislative Administration
report that House Joint Resolution 48 (first reading copy --
white) do pass .

Signed: William (Red) Menahan
William (Red) Menahan, Chairman