

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 52nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT & HIGHWAYS

Call to Order: By CHAIRMAN QUILICI, on February 21, 1991, at 8:02 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Joe Quilici, Chairman (D)
Sen. Larry Stimatz, Vice Chairman (D)
Sen. Harry Fritz (D)
Rep. Mary Lou Peterson (R)
Sen. Larry Tveit (R)
Rep. Tom Zook (R)

Staff Present: Clayton Schenck, Senior Fiscal Analyst (LFA)
Lois Steinbeck, Associate Fiscal Analyst (LFA)
Arlene Carlson, Secretary

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

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION/SECRETARY OF STATE EXECUTIVE ACTION

Ms. Steinbeck spoke about the salary of the transfer of one FTE from Records Management to the Secretary of State. The amount understood to be authorized by the committee was approximately \$19,805 which is too low. It's anywhere from \$1500 to \$2000 to low and the Department is researching future discrepancy. Perhaps the committee could direct staff to put in the correct FTE attributes and base the salary on that.

Motion/Vote: REP. PETERSON moved to put in the correct amount of salary for the FTE from yesterday's motion. Motion **CARRIED** unanimously.

EXECUTIVE ACTION -- DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Ms. Steinbeck discussed the concern of using gas tax as being constitutionally mandated, only purposes expressed by the constitution. She detailed the two methods for allocating gas tax which are similar to methods used in other agencies for attaching indirect revenue for support services of a centralized function. One method is the FTE method and the second is the Personal Services Method.

Motion/Vote: REP. PETERSON moved to adopt the FTE method at 2.97%. Motion **CARRIED** unanimously.

Motion/Vote: SEN. TVEIT moved to accept the State Special Proprietary. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

Motion/Vote: SEN. TVEIT moved to accept the following language: "If SB 164 does not pass, item ____ is reduced by 1 FTE at grade 13 step 2 and the appropriation is reduced by \$25,838 in FY92 and \$25,799 in FY93." Motion CARRIED unanimously.

Jack Ellery, DOR, spoke about the program analyst.

Motion/Vote: REP. PETERSON moved to reconsider action on the FTE for a programmer analyst in DOR. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

Motion/Vote: REP. PETERSON moved to accept the .80 FTE for the programmer analyst. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

Motion/Vote: REP. PETERSON moved to instruct Lois to bring this in at the grade 15, step 2, as other agencies would do. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

Corporation and Natural Resource Tax Program

Motion/Vote: REP. ZOOK moved to adopt the following language: "The department is directed to, at a minimum, to have two separate budget packages, one for general fund and one for all other funds." Motion CARRIED unanimously.

EXECUTIVE ACTION -- DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

Army National Guard and Disaster Emergency Services

Motion/Vote: REP. ZOOK moved to adopt the following language which would require the Army National Guard to present the budget in three packages: general fund, federal fund, and general/federal split. For Disaster and Emergency Services, the language intent would present their budget in two components, one for federal fund and one for the general fund which matches the federal fund. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

Mr. Booker said SBAS is set up that way now so there's no problem. He concurs with this budget process.

EXECUTIVE ACTION -- STATE FUND

Ms. Steinbeck explained the separate budget components for the State Fund. Aggregated, the three major areas are the Benefit Department, the Underwriting Department and the Administration Department. The suggested legislative intent language would be that the agency is directed to submit the budget request for the 1995 biennium in unique components showing actual expenditures and budget request for each department. The State Fund is very opposed to this language.

Carla Smith, State Fund, said they are not opposed to submitting the budget in this manner. They take it one step further and budget by responsibility center. Their fear is taking that next step, that if the budget is submitted by program, then the appropriation will be set up by program. That leaves them with very little flexibility.

Motion/Vote: SEN. STIMATZ moved to accept the above language.
Motion **CARRIED** unanimously.

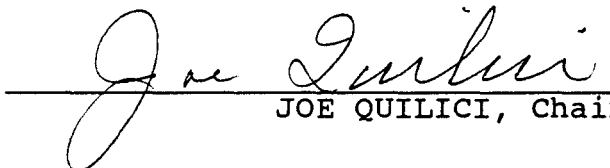
Ms. Smith referred to action taken yesterday on the State Auditor's budget. She thought the action was to charge the State Fund for writing of warrants, the action the subcommittee took was to charge the State Fund for all warrants that are issued. About 23,000 of the medical warrants that the State Auditor writes are given back to the State Fund for mailing out because there is a multiple-page statement of benefit that accompanies the check. The State Auditor's function is totally automated so they won't include the other information. So it goes through the State Fund postage meter. They don't want to paying that full amount to the Auditor and pay the postage besides.

CHAIRMAN QUILICI said he thought the full Appropriations could take care of this along with the Highway Department and FWP.

CHAIRMAN QUILICI discussed the resolution concerning the computer services and the cost of the CPUs. Unit use is going down but computer equipment is sky rocketing. The Legislative Finance Committee, Audit Committee and the DOA to work together on this. They talked about recent developments in Human Services for a new system.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 9:04 a.m.


JOE QUILICI, Chair

JQ/ac