

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 52nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & CLAIMS

Call to Order: By Senator Judy Jacobson, Chairman, on April 19, 1991, at 11:10 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Judy Jacobson, Chairman (D)
Greg Jergeson, Vice Chairman (D)
Gary Aklestad (R)
Thomas Beck (R)
Esther Bengtson (D)
Don Bianchi (D)
Gerry Devlin (R)
Harry Fritz (D)
Eve Franklin (D)
H.W. Hammond (R)
Ethel Harding (R)
Bob Hockett (D)
Thomas Keating (R)
Dennis Nathe (R)
Lawrence Stimatz (D)
Larry Tveit (R)
Eleanor Vaughn (D)
Mignon Waterman (D)
Cecil Weeding (D)

Members Excused: Richard Manning (D)

Staff Present: Teresa Olcott Cohea(LFA).

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

HEARING ON SJR 31

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Senator Gage said this is a resolution requesting an interim study on the appropriation process and methods used in the appropriation in the state of Montana. After having talked about it on the floor a couple of times this session, several Senators have urged him to continue with this and get it completed and introduced. He said he has talked to a number of state employees who have also encouraged him in this area as they think our whole process leaves a lot to be desired. In particular, he thinks we

need to look at doing something with regard to incentives for the agencies of state government. Incentives are what make things happen. He said our whole process needs an overhaul. He hopes we will be willing to look at some options. The university system's proposal of a block grant is a good proposal. We should consider doing something of that nature if a study is implemented, to look at that same concept with regard to the state agencies of Montana.

Proponents' Testimony:

None.

Opponents' Testimony:

None.

Questions From Committee Members:

Senator Jacobson said in a prior interim, where she served on the Finance Committee, the Finance Committee did an extensive study on the funds and sub funds and came in with a number of bills to try and de-earmark a lot of funds. She asked if we could accomplish more in that line. She said she had never seen so many fees and proprietary funds and statutory appropriations coming through a session, as there is in this session. It seems every time we get rid of a few, we add a bunch.

Senator Gage said that is what reflects on the need to do this. We continue to do that and if we do, we are ultimately going to get to the point where the legislature will only have to look at nothing as far as appropriations, but just adopt what little there might be left in appropriations.

Senator Jacobson said it is her understanding there is an incentive program in place for state employees that can find cost savings in their departments. She asked Senator Gage if there was something over and beyond that that he was thinking about.

Senator Gage said yes, he thinks we need to put something in as a total department incentive rather than individual. He thinks there would be a vast difference in attitude about trying to cut down in various areas if they knew there was something in it for putting out that effort.

Senator Hammond asked how many studies we have introduced.

Senator Jacobson said what Senator Gage is saying is that one of the permanent interim committees, such as the Finance Committee, would do this rather than set up another committee.

Senator Gage said yes, and if they deemed they needed a separate committee to do that, they would have a separate committee.

Senator Jacobson said the LFA indicated the Finance Committee is a standing committee and the interim word should be changed to standing committee.

Senator Gage said he would prefer it be a special committee to do this. He would anticipate this would be a fairly healthy job to do and people who serve on it need to be people who could dedicate a decent amount of time in looking at options to what we are doing.

Senator Waterman said we are not talking about a standing committee, we are talking about a special interim committee, and asked if that was Senator Gage's intention. Senator Gage said that would be his intention.

Senator Hammond asked his question again regarding how many committees. Senator Jacobson said 5 or 6 maybe. He could check with the LFA.

Closing by Sponsor:

Senator Gage closed and said some of the interim studies are by bill and those are mandated. This would fall in with those where they poll the legislature and determine priorities as to which will be studied.

HEARING ON HJR 48

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Rep. Joe Quilici, Representative from House District 71, said this is a resolution asking for an interim study to be done by the Legislative Finance Committee on computers and computer service and over-all computer use in the state of Montana. He said we are putting millions and millions of dollars into computers every year. The Legislative Auditor's office and the Legislative Finance Committee working with ISD could maybe get a handle on some of the problems so we could find out why we have to put these millions of dollars in computers.

Proponents' Testimony:

None

Opponents' Testimony:

None

Questions From Committee Members:

Senator Keating asked if ISD (Information Services Division) were the ones that began to develop this in 1981 and 1983 and recommend certain things. ISD would be given the job on a

propriety fund basis to make sure what they were getting was the right thing. He asked if we could trace these failures back to that division.

Rep. Quilici said in some cases yes, but in most cases no. There has been a little turf battle and we as legislators don't want to get in the middle of those, but if that is what it takes to resolve the problems so they have systems that are compatible, then maybe we will have to get involved.

Senator Keating asked if Workers Comp went through ISD or did they go on their own as well.

Rep. Quilici said they used ISD partially, but they have such a large system that they have their own system analyst too.

Senator Keating asked if their system wasn't in trouble.

Rep. Quilici said yes, and they are putting more money in them, more money in TEAMS and more money in REARS. The university system set up their own system.

Senator Keating said Mike Trevor seems to have a good handle on the whole system. Do we ever use his guidance or counsel in these things.

Rep. Quilici said yes and that Mr. Trevor helped draft this resolution. He sees there is a problem and as a state employee cannot go head on with elected officials, but legislators can.

Senator Jacobson said there was a whole committee working with the REARS program from all the different parts and it was their conclusion that they would come up with a different system and put it in the commissioner of higher education's office. She said her understanding was that it was more cost effective to do that than go into the university systems and have to change a lot of things in their computers.

Senator Nathe asked, when these systems become obsolete, do they get sold as surplus property.

Rep. Quilici said many times the system will be traded in to the manufacturer and they give them so much on the old system.

Senator Waterman wondered who would be the lead on telling us what needs to be done, and asked if we are going to use an outside consultant to give an independent view.

Senator Jacobson said this resolution is drafted so it would go to the Finance Committee and be staffed by the LFA.

Senator Waterman said they would have to rely on some technical computer staff.

Rep. Quilici said we have many experts in the computer field in state government and the Legislative Auditor's office is willing to cooperate on this and work with the Legislative Finance Committee and ISD. He said there is no money for any expert witnesses.

Senator Stimatz asked Rep. Quilici regarding Mr. Trevor indicating there was a technical committee on the technical aspects of this. People had to come and get a clearance as to the type of things they were buying. That committee had nothing to say about the policy or need for a computer in the various agencies. Agencies could come and say what they want and what they need. No one is doing the quality study or policy control of adding computers to their system.

Closing by Sponsor:

Representative Quilici closed.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJR 48

Motion:

Senator Keating moved to Concur in HJR 48.

Recommendation and Vote:

Motion that HJR 48 Be Concurred In carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJR 31

Motion:


Senator Waterman moved SJR 31 Do Pass.

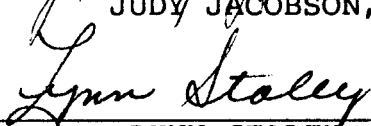
Recommendation and Vote:

Motion that SJR 31 Do Pass carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment At: 11:30 a.m.


JUDY JACOBSON, Chairman


LYNN STALEY, Secretary

ROLL CALL

FINANCE & CLAIMS COMMITTEE

DATE 4-19-91

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
SENATOR JACOBSON CHAIRMAN	✓		
SENATOR JERGESON, VICE CHAIRMAN	✓		
SENATOR AKLESTAD	✓		
SENATOR BECK			
SENATOR BENGTON	✓		
SENATOR BIANCHI	✓		
SENATOR DEVLIN	✓		
SENATOR FRITZ			
SENATOR HAMMOND	✓		
SENATOR HARDING	✓		
SENATOR HOCKETT			
SENATOR KEATING	✓		
SENATOR MANNING			/
SENATOR NATHE	✓		
SENATOR STIMATZ	✓		

Each day attach to minutes.

ROLL CALL

FINANCE & CLAIMS COMMITTEE, CONTINUED

DATE _____

____ LEGISLATIVE SESSION ____

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
SENATOR TVEIT			
SENATOR VAUGHN			
SENATOR WATERMAN	✓		
SENATOR WEEDING	✓		
SENATOR FRANKLIN	✓		

Each day attach to minutes.

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Page 1 of 1
April 19, 1991

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Finance and Claims having had under consideration Senate Joint Resolution No. 31 (first reading copy -- white), respectfully report that Senate Joint Resolution No. do pass.

Signed: _____

Judy H. Jacobson
Judy H. Jacobson, Chairman

4-17-91
Amd. Coord.

4-17-91
Sec. of Senate

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Page 1 of 1
April 19, 1991

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Finance and Claims having had under consideration House Joint Resolution No. 48 (third reading copy - blue), respectfully report that House Joint Resolution No. 48 be concurred in.

Signed:

Judy H. Jacobson
Judy H. Jacobson, Chairman

Jan 4 1991
And. Coord.

Sec. of Senate

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