

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
53rd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & CLAIMS

Call to Order: By Senator Judy Jacobson, Chair, on January 11, 1993, at 12:00 noon.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Judy Jacobson, Chair (D)
Sen. Eve Franklin, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Tom Beck (R)
Sen. Don Bianchi (D)
Sen. Chris Christiaens (D)
Sen. Gerry Devlin (R)
Sen. Gary Forrester (D)
Sen. Harry Fritz (D)
Sen. Ethel Harding (R)
Sen. Bob Hockett (D)
Sen. Greg Jergeson (D)
Sen. Tom Keating (R)
Sen. J.D. Lynch (D)
Sen. Dennis Nathe (R)
Sen. Chuck Swysgood (R)
Sen. Larry Tveit (R)
Sen. Eleanor Vaughn (D)
Sen. Mignon Waterman (D)
Sen. Cecil Weeding (D)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: Senator Aklestad.

Staff Present: Terry Cohea, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Lynn Staley, Committee Secretary

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

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing: HB 1

HEARING ON HOUSE BILL 1

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Representative Zook, sponsor, said HB 1, commonly referred

to as the "feed bill" has increases in amounts, as well as health insurance. Governor Stephens recommended a \$20 increase in health insurance effective June 1994 and another \$20 in the first six months of fiscal year 1995. The calculation of retirement contributions has a potential for the state match in the amount of \$150,000. The mileage rate has been increased which is set at the rate allowed by the Internal Revenue Service the preceding year. Attache salaries were increased as a result of the pay plan and HB 509, as well as general operating expenses. An additional amount was required by the Legislative Auditor because of select committees appointed by the Speaker of the House.

Rep. Zook concluded that HB 1 was compiled by the leadership and by the Legislative Council and any questions could be directed to Bob Person of the Legislative Council.

Proponents' Testimony:

None.

Opponents' Testimony:

None.

Informational Testimony:

None.

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

Senator Keating questioned if estimates of revenue projections were made two years ago.

Terry Cohea, LFA, said when a fund balance statement is prepared for the Legislature, \$5 million is traditionally included for the feed bill. She noted the fund balance statements that are driving the \$215.6 million deficit include the amount of HB 1 as well as the feed bill for the July special session.

Senator Keating questioned if HB 1 has a supplemental in that we are overspending what is anticipated.

Ms. Cohea said HB 1 is not appropriated until the appropriation is made, but in calculating the cost of state expenditures, historically a \$5 million estimate is made of what

the feed bill would cost, so this fulfills the estimate and is not a supplemental, but a traditional way of handling the feed bill.

Senator Jacobson said it was her understanding that the only new expenses in HB 1 are the \$20,000 being allotted to the legislative auditor which has to do with some computer runs that will be required by House select committees appointed by Representative Mercer.

Senator Swysgood questioned how much HB 1 is over the feed bill of the last session.

Bob Person, Legislative Council, said the percentage amount for HB 1 is 11.79 percent. He said the total last session was \$4,495,997 and this time it is \$5,026,230.

When questioned by Senator Jacobson if most of that increase has to do with benefits, Mr. Person said a large portion is the health insurance as alluded to by Rep. Zook.

Mr. Person distributed to the committee a copy of "HB 1 - Feed bill budgets summarized by responsibility center". (See Exhibit 1)

Senator Devlin questioned the figures in caucus and start-up in the House and Senate. He asked why the start-up costs for the House and Senate are similar when the House membership is much larger than that of the Senate.

Senator Jacobson said the House updated the voting board last session and the Senate is looking into purchasing that equipment this session. That is the main reason for the difference in the House and Senate figures, in that the voting board is \$125,000.

Senator Jacobson said with regard to start-up costs, much of that has to do with staff that began work before the legislative session started to prepare for the session. She noted her feeling that the staff size in the House and Senate is not considerably different. The actual travel costs of legislators is probably minimal in comparison to the start-up costs for bringing staff on board.

Closing by Sponsor:

Representative Zook closed.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HOUSE BILL 1

Motion: Senator Lynch moved that HB 1 BE CONCURRED IN.

Discussion: None.

Vote: Senator Lynch's motion that HB 1 BE CONCURRED IN carried with Senator Swysgood opposed.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:15 p.m.



JUDY JACOBSON, Chair



LYNN STALEY, Secretary

JJ/LS

ROLL CALL

SENATE COMMITTEE FINANCE AND CLAIMS

DATE 1/11/93

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
SENATOR JACOBSON	✓		
SENATOR FRANKLIN	✓		
SENATOR AKLESTAD			✓
SENATOR BECK			
SENATOR BIANCHI	✓		
SENATOR CHRISTIAENS	✓		
SENATOR DEVLIN	✓		
SENATOR FORRESTER	✓		
SENATOR FRITZ	✓		
SENATOR HARDING	✓		
SENATOR HOCKETT	✓		
SENATOR JERGESON	✓		
SENATOR KEATING	✓		
SENATOR LYNCH	✓		
SENATOR NATHE	✓		
SENATOR SWYSGOOD	✓		
SENATOR TVEIT	✓		
SENATOR VAUGHN	✓		
SENATOR WATERMAN	✓		
SENATOR WEEDING	✓		

FC8

Attach to each day's minutes

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Page 1 of 1
January 11, 1993

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Finance and Claims having had under consideration House Bill No. 1 (first reading copy -- blue), respectfully report that House Bill No. 1 be concurred in.

Signed: Judy Jacobson
Judy H. Jacobson, Chair

SENATE FINANCE AND CLAIMS

EXHIBIT NO. 1House Bill 1 -- 53rd Legislature
Feed Bill Budgets Summarized by Responsibility CenterDATE 1/11/93BILL NO. HB 1

House of Representatives

Legislator Salary and Expenses	1,728,527
Attache Salaries	557,370
Legislative Operations & Eqpt	129,605
Session Subcommittee Travel	7,798
Leadership Travel	10,000
Leadership Tvl (Min)	5,000
Caucus and Start-Up	70,352
Total Budget	2,508,652

Senate

Legislator Salary and Expenses	902,885
Attache Salaries	479,517
Legislative Operations & Eqpt	316,935
Leadership Travel	10,000
Leadership Tvl (Min)	5,000
Caucus and Start-Up	68,329
Total Budget	1,782,666

Legislative Council

Bill Print and Distribution	411,205
Legislative Publications	111,704
Legislative Information and Telephones	191,353
Total Council Feed Bill	714,262