

**MINUTES**

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

**COMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION**

**Call to Order:** By Senator Cecil Weeding, Chair, on January 12, 1993, at 1:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Cecil Weeding, Chair (D)  
Sen. Betty Bruski-Maus, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. John Harp (R)  
Sen. Francis Koehnke (D)  
Sen. Doc Rea (D)  
Sen. Spook Stang (D)  
Sen. Chuck Swysgood (R)  
Sen. Henry McClernan (D)  
Sen. Daryl Toews (R)  
Sen. Larry Tveit (R)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Dave Bohyer, Legislative Council  
Beth Satre, Committee Secretary

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

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing: None.  
Executive Action: None.

**CHAIRMAN WEEDING** asked that a notation be made in the minutes that an improper motion was made in the Committee last meeting. The motion was to refer SB 78 to the Judiciary Committee and according to the Senate rules such a motion must be made on the Senate Floor. That was subsequently done and the bill was transferred properly to Judiciary.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SENATE BILL 56**

**CHAIRMAN WEEDING** brought to the members attention the amendments to SB 56 that were discussed and adopted at the last meeting. At Senators' Vaughn and Swysgood request **Dave Bohyer** had drafted and proofed the amendments that had been introduced in the hearing on that bill.

**Motion:** SEN. MCCLERNAN moved the amendments before the Committee.

**Discussion:** None.

**Vote:** the Amendments carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 56 As Amended**

**Motion:** SEN. KOEHNKE made the motion that SB 56 do pass as amended.

**Discussion:**

SEN. REA requested more information about the cost of SB 56.

SEN. SWYSGOOD noted that SB 56 in its current form would create a shortfall in the general fund in both years of the biennium. He stated his opinion that the fee for these plates should at least offset the cost of their production and asked if changes to the fee structure contained in the bill could accomplish that.

SEN. REA stated that more bills of this nature would be coming before the Committee. Although he supports the intent of SB 56, the Committee needs to address the fact that the State cannot put out \$27,000 for everybody that wants specialized license plates.

SEN. KOEHNKE asked if raising the price of these plates to \$20 would make them pay for themselves.

CHAIRMAN WEEDING agreed that they probably would, but also reminded the Committee that primarily volunteers would purchase these plates.

SEN. MCCLERNAN referred back to the fiscal note and the revenue that would be derived from the sale of the plates, an amount that seems to offset the costs. CHAIRMAN WEEDING agreed, but pointed out that most of that revenue does not go into the General Fund.

SEN. SWYSGOOD stated that SB 56 allows that revenue to flow to the support of the Fire-Training Center and others. Using the figures in the Fiscal notes, he suggested the Committee would need to about double the price of the plates in order to recoup the cost.

The Committee then discussed how much the plates would have to cost in order to take care of the general fund deficit. CHAIRMAN WEEDING pointed out that the figures in the fiscal note also presume a certain number of plates sold. SEN. STANG stated that the assumption was that less than half of the licensed emergency medical technicians (emts) and firefighters would purchase those plates.

**SEN. KOEHNKE** offered to withdraw his motion so that SB 56 could be reamended.

**CHAIRMAN WEEDING** requested that he wait until that intention was expressed

**SEN. SWYSGOOD** stated that the Committee needs to try and minimize the impact on the general funds. If the Committee would raise the cost of these license plates to \$20 instead of the \$10 and replace every occurrence of "remit \$1 to the general fund" with "remit \$11 to the general fund", \$10 of the license plate fee would still go to the support of firefighter and emt organizations. He then made a substitute motion to amend SB 56 inserting \$20 in place of the \$10 plate fee and then also changing \$1 deposit fund to \$11.

**Dave Bohyer** stated that in the second year all the money goes back to the county and asked **SEN. SWYSGOOD** if he would want to do anything with that provision. After being asked for further clarification, **Dave Bohyer** explained that as it now stands SB 56 would give half of the money in the first year of the original registration would go to emt and firefighter organizations. Every year after that they will get the full amount of the re-registration costs.

**SEN. TVEIT** asked for and received clarification that according to the amendments proposed by **SEN. SWYSGOOD** these plates would cost a total of \$20.

**SEN. SWYSGOOD** stated that he was not sure how to handle the money from re-registration fees. An impact is shown for both years of the biennium but it substantially decreases in the second year.

**Dave Bohyer** pointed out the assumptions listed on the fiscal note indicate there will be initial programming and other start up costs. Afterwards there might be some maintenance, but not at the same level.

**SEN. TVEIT** asked if doubling the fee were necessary or would a lesser sum.

In response **CHAIRMAN WEEDING** stated that Sen. Swysgood's intent is to make the general fund whole or more whole by reverting \$9 to the Fire-Training School and \$11 to the General Fund.

**SEN. SWYSGOOD** clarified his intent. He does not necessarily want the State to make money on these plates, but the general fund should be kept whole. The production and distribution costs should be covered by the plate fees. It is his opinion that if the State will incur costs in the second year, then the State should get enough money to cover those from the re-registration fees. The exact language needed to accomplish that would have to be drafted. He would not want the Fire-Training School to receive less money than they would have gotten in the original

bill, but he wants to keep the general fund whole in both years. His motion should do exactly that.

**Dave Bohyer** said that in order to get the exact figures, he would need to work with the people who did the fiscal note. With the intent of making the general fund whole, plate-renewal will probably be for a different amount than for the initial purchase. In an estimate based on the fiscal note, he thought another \$7.50 would be sufficient to cover the general fund's loss in the first year, and in the second year \$4.00 would suffice.

**SEN. SWYSGOOD** asked Dave Bohyer to figure out the numbers and draft an amendment based on a \$20 annual fee that would be designed just to keep the general fund whole. Whatever is left over should go to the firefighters and emts.

**SEN. WEEDING** asked the Committee if a motion to increase the plate fee just to the amount to make the general fund whole in both years would be sufficient. He was not sure that the exact dollar amounts needed to be included.

**Dave Bohyer** suggested that dollar amounts might be a good idea. An estimated fee would be about \$17.50 in the first year and \$14 in the second.

**SEN. TVEIT** agreed. He thought it important that the Committee have the exact information before making a final decision.

**SEN. SWYSGOOD** stated his opinion that a \$20 fee is not out of line. As long as the general fund remains whole, the excess from that fee can go to the Fire-Training School. He asked **Dave Bohyer** to draft an amendment using the \$20 fee.

**CHAIRMAN WEEDING** asked **Dave Bohyer** to work up two possible amendments for the next meeting. One would be based on the fee of \$20 and the other would be the amount to keep the general fund whole.


**SEN. TVEIT** commented that the Committee's action on SB 56 could set the tone for this kind of legislation. If the general fund can be kept whole at this point, that message will be sent to the other groups who are also planning to request specialized plates.

**CHAIRMAN WEEDING** agreed to defer executive action until the next meeting.

Vote: None.

ADJOURNMENT

**Adjournment:** 1:22 p.m.



SENATOR CECIL WEEDING, Chair



BETH E. SATRE, Secretary

CW/bes

# ROLL CALL

SENATE COMMITTEE HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION DATE 12 Jan. 1993

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
SEN. CECIL WEEBING, CHAIR	X		
SEN. BETTY BRUSKI-MAUS, VICE-CHAIR	X		
SEN. JOHN HARP	X		
SEN. FRANCIS KOEHNKE	X		
SEN. HENRY McCLENNAN	X		
SEN. JACK "DOC" REA	X		
SEN. BARRY "SPOOK" STANG	X		
SEN. CHARLES "CHUCK" SWYSGOOD	X		
SEN. DARYL TOEWS	X		
SEN. LARRY TVEIT	X		

FC8

Attach to each day's minutes

January 12, 1993

SB 56

Amendments to Senate Bill No. 56  
First Reading CopyRequested by Senators Vaughn, Swysgood, and Tveit  
For the Committee on Highways and TransportationPrepared by Dave Bohyer  
January 7, 1993

1. Title, line 5.  
Following: "AND"  
Strike: "AMBULANCE"  
Following: "PERSONNEL"  
Insert: "OF A LICENSED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE"
2. Title, line 7.  
Strike: "AND"  
Insert: ", "
3. Title, line 8.  
Following: "SCIENCES"  
Insert: ", AND PART OF THE LICENSE FEE TO THE STATE GENERAL FUND"
4. Page 7, lines 2 and 3.  
Following: "active" on line 2  
Strike: "or retired"
5. Page 7, line 3.  
Following: "or"  
Strike: "ambulance"  
Following: "personnel"  
Insert: "of an emergency medical service licensed under 50-6-306"
6. Page 11, line 11.  
Strike: "or retired"
7. Page 11, lines 15 and 16.  
Following: "cross" on line 15  
Strike: the remainder of line 15 through "is retired" on line 16
8. Page 11, line 25.  
Strike: "\$10"  
Insert: "\$15.50"
9. Page 12, line 5.  
Strike: "\$1"  
Insert: "\$6.50"
10. Page 12, line 14.  
Strike: "or retired"  
Following: "of an"  
Strike: "ambulance"  
Insert: "emergency medical"

11. Page 12, line 15.  
Following: "service"  
Insert: "licensed under 50-6-306"
12. Page 12, lines 18 and 19.  
Following: "decal of the" on line 18  
Strike: the remainder of line 18 through "is retired" on line 19  
Insert: "Montana emergency medical services system logo"
13. Page 12, line 19.  
Following: "The"  
Insert: "owner, director, or"
14. Page 12, line 20.  
Following: "of each"  
Strike: "ambulance"  
Insert: "licensed"
15. Page 12, line 21.  
Strike: "ambulance"
16. Page 12, line 25.  
Strike: "an ambulance"  
Insert: "a licensed"
17. Page 13, line 3.  
Following: "special"  
Strike: "ambulance"  
Insert: "emergency medical"
18. Page 13, line 4.  
Strike: "\$10"  
Insert: "\$15.50"
19. Page 13, line 8.  
Strike: "\$1"  
Insert: "\$6.50"
20. Page 13, line 13.  
Following: "for"  
Strike: "ambulance"  
Following: "personnel"  
Insert: "of emergency medical services licensed under 50-6-306"
21. Page 19, lines 14 and 15.  
Following: "active" on line 14  
Strike: "or retired" on lines 14 and 15
22. Page 19, line 15.  
Following: "or"  
Strike: "ambulance"  
Following: "personnel"  
Insert: "of an emergency medical service licensed under 50-6-306"



23. Page 23, line 23.  
Strike: "or retired"

24. Page 24, lines 2 and 3.  
Following: "cross" on line 2  
Strike: the remainder of line 2 through "is retired" on line 3

25. Page 24, line 12.  
Strike: "\$10"  
Insert: "\$15.50"

26. Page 24, line 17.  
Strike: "\$1"  
Insert: "\$6.50"

27. Page 25, line 1.  
Strike: "or retired"  
Following: "of an"  
Strike: "ambulance"  
Insert: "emergency medical"

28. Page 25, line 2.  
Following: "service"  
Insert: "licensed under 50-6-306"

29. Page 25, lines 5 and 6.  
Following: "decal of the" on line 5  
Strike: the remainder of line 5 through "is retired" on line 6  
Insert: "Montana emergency medical services system logo"

30. Page 25, line 6.  
Following: "The"  
Insert: "owner, director, or"

31. Page 25, line 7.  
Following: "of each"  
Strike: "ambulance"  
Insert: "licensed"

32. Page 25, line 8.  
Strike: "ambulance"

33. Page 25, line 12.  
Strike: "an ambulance"  
Insert: "a licensed"

34. Page 25, line 15.  
Following: "special"  
Strike: "ambulance"  
Insert: "emergency medical"

35. Page 25, line 16.  
Strike: "\$10"  
Insert: "\$15.50"

36. Page 25, line 20.

Strike: "\$1"

Insert: "\$6.50"

37. Page 25, line 25.

Following: "for"

Strike: "ambulance"

Following: "personnel"

Insert: "of emergency medical services licensed under 50-6-306"