

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 53rd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

Call to Order: By Senator Blaylock, on March 23, 1993, at 3:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Chet Blaylock, Chair (D)
Sen. Mignon Waterman, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Bruce Crippen (R)
Sen. Dorothy Eck (D)
Sen. Ethel Harding (R)
Sen. Judy Jacobson (D)

Members Excused: Senator Judy Jacobson

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: None.

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

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing: HB 21
HJR 2

Executive Action: HB 21
HJR 2

HEARING ON HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Representative Harriet Hayne, House District 10, Dupuyer, explained HJR 2 as the attache pay resolution. It is a joint resolution of the Senate and House concerning the classification, pay and other conditions of employment of legislative employees. The employees covered by this resolution are those employees needed to carry out the work in the operation of the Montana Legislature and are not hired under the same conditions as the regular state employees.

Proponents' Testimony:

Bob Person, Executive Director, Legislative Council said he would be available to answer any questions.

Opponents' Testimony:

None.

Informational Testimony:

None.

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

Senator Crippen asked if we do not pass this bill does it mean the employees will not get paid and Representative Hayne said they are getting paid.

Senator Crippen asked what happened to the classifications we had last session and Mr. Person explained that over the past decade the custom has been to have a joint resolution each session to coordinate salaries between the Senate and House and prior to that it was a "catch as catch can" situation. The staff is being paid as if this resolution had passed according to the conditions in this resolution. He said typically this bill would go through earlier in the session, but the contacts were worked out before hand by Senator Blaylock and Representative Menahan starting last September and Representative Hayne has been involved in it since the caucus.

Senator Blaylock said there had been an issue raised which was something of an anomaly where there was a salary discrepancy. Claudia Clifford, Secretary of the Senate, said she believed the issue centered around the aides to the Minority and Majority leaders. There is an aide for the Minority Leader and an aide for the Majority Leader; the aide for the Majority Leader is a grade 11 and the aide for the Minority Leader is a grade 13 and the aide to the President is a grade 13. There was an issue of looking at some sort of equity for that. This fits into a larger issue where, as she and the Chief Clerk in the House began to hire employees for the session in December, they both had questions about the grade and pay levels for employees, specifically how they were graded. They were in the midst of hiring and did not feel they could really address very easily the question of changing grades. Basically they used and supported this grading system for the session and would suggest to the committee that they be allowed to work on some proposals for changing some of those grades and addressing some of the inequity questions they have for presentation to the committee.

Senator Blaylock suggested it would be better to have this as a presentation to the Joint committee of the House and Senate Legislative Administration Committee. Ms. Clifford agreed and suggested this be done at the end of this session. The problem arises at the beginning of the session, often with two new

officers who do not have a feel for it. As soon as one or two people are hired you have done so under an understanding of what their pay will be. Once there are bodies it is much more difficult to make changes. If this could be looked at now at the end of the session, you do not have people attached to jobs and can deal with it without hurting anyone.

Senator Blaylock said he believed it would make good sense to do this at the end of this session. He thought perhaps during the last week of the session the joint committee could get together and settle these things. He believed it would be a big aid to whoever was Secretary of the Senate or Chief Clerk of the House to know schedules prior to hiring.

Senator Waterman suggested Ms. Clifford and Ms. Miller get together and come up with a proposal for recommendations. Senator Blaylock said he would like to try to have a meeting before the end of the session.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2

Motion/Vote: Senator Waterman moved House Joint Resolution 2 BE CONCURRED IN. The motion CARRIED unanimously, Senator Jacobson was absent.

HEARING ON HOUSE BILL 21

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Representative Menahan, chief sponsor of House Bill 21 was not present and Representative Hayne, House District 10, Dupuyer, explained the bill. She said this is an act clarifying the staffing and responsibilities of the Legislative Council and would let the Council explain the need for the bill.

Senator Eck asked if anyone has considered staffing for the Legislative Auditor under the Legislative council. Mr. Petesch answered no.

Proponents' Testimony:

Gregory Petesch, Code Commissioner, Legal Services Division, Legislative Council, said this bill was introduced because the statutes assigning responsibilities to the various divisions of the Legislative Council do not conform with historical practice in assigning those duties. This bill conforms the statutes to what has become historical practice. He explained situations which had occurred, where special permission to carry out duties was needed, hiring was handled differently than the statutes indicated, etc. He said this would make legal the practices that have been in place for a long time.

Opponents' Testimony:

None.

Informational Testimony:

None.

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

None.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON House bill HOUSE BILL 2

Motion/Vote: Motion by Senator Eck that House Bill 21 BE CONCURRED IN. The motion CARRIED unanimously, Senator Jacobson was absent.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 3:24 p.m.



CHET BLAYLOCK, Chair



SYLVIA KINSEY, Secretary

CB/sk

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SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

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March 23, 1993

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Legislative Administration having had under consideration House Joint Resolution No. 2 (first reading copy -- blue), respectfully report that House Joint Resolution No. 2 be concurred in.

Signed: Chet Blaylock

Senator Chet Blaylock, Chair

AW Amd. Coord.
Sec. of Senate

Senator Blaylock
Senator Carrying Bill

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SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

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March 23, 1993

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Legislative Administration having had under consideration House Bill No. 21 (first reading copy -- blue), respectfully report that House Bill No. 21 be concurred in.

Signed:

Chet Blaylock
Senator Chet Blaylock, Chair

APV Amd. Coord.
Sec. of Senate

Senator Blaylock
Senator Carrying Bill

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