

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
53rd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION**

Call to Order: By Senator Eleanor Vaughn, on March 25, 1993, at 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Eleanor Vaughn, Chair (D)
Sen. Jeff Weldon, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Jim Burnett (R)
Sen. Harry Fritz (D)
Sen. John Hertel (R)
Sen. Bob Hockett (D)
Sen. Bob Pipinich (D)
Sen. Bernie Swift (R)
Sen. Henry McClernan (D)
Sen. Larry Tveit (R)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: David Niss, Legislative Council
Deborah Stanton, Committee Secretary

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

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing: HB 659
Executive Action: HB 659

HEARING ON HB 659

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Rep. Peterson, House District #1, presented HB 659 which would transfer the Office of Aging from the Governor's Office to the Department of Family Services.

Proponents' Testimony:

Charlie Rehbein, Governor's Coordinator on Aging, spoke in support of HB 659. "All of the employees currently in the office are Department of Family Services employees other than myself. With this move, I will become a Department of Family Services

Employee. The Advisory Council will still be appointed by the Governor and we will still be advising the Governor on aging issues.

Jess Munro, Deputy Director of the Department of Family Services, rose in support of HB 659. He stated the Director, Hank Hudson, wanted to submit the support of the department for the passage of HB 659.

Opponents' Testimony:

None.

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

Sen. Weldon asked Rep. Peterson if the budgetary process matches the intent of this bill. In other words, the Office of Aging's budget is being considered in the Department of Family Service's budget. Rep. Peterson said that was correct.

Sen. McClernan asked Mr. Rehbein why it was necessary to do this. Mr. Rehbein stated it saves the state one FTE and it saves the general fund currently in the Governor's office. It puts everything into Family Services along with all the expenses that go with the program.

Closing by Sponsor:

Rep. Peterson said there was some concern about this but it is a good move and makes sense.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 659

Motion: Sen. McClernan moved HB 659 BE CONCURRED IN.

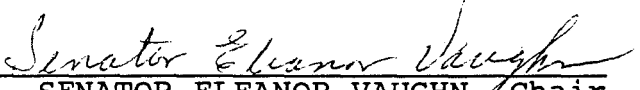
Discussion: Sen. Hockett asked how long this organization had been in existence. Mr. Niss said it was put into place in 1983. Sen. Fritz stated when the joint subcommittee was cutting the Governor's budget there was a danger of losing this program. This type of arrangement was the sort of bureaucratic flexibility that we encourage. Sen. Vaughn said this office does a lot of good for the senior citizens of Montana. Sen. Tveit said the subcommittee worked with the department to make the change.

Vote: Motion HB 659 BE CONCURRED IN CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Sen. Fritz will carry the bill.

Sen. Weldon announced the traditional end-of-the year dinner for the Senate State Administration Committee. It will be a joint dinner with the House State Administration Committee. There was additional discussion on this topic.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:15 a.m.



SENATOR ELEANOR VAUGHN, Chair



DEBORAH STANTON, Secretary

EV/ds

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

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MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on State Administration having had under consideration House Bill No. 659 (first reading copy -- blue), respectfully report that House Bill No. 659 be concurred in.

Signed: Senator Vaughn
Senator Eleanor Vaughn, Chair

AW Amd. Coord.
Sec. of Senate

Sen. Sims
Senator Carrying Bill

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DATE 3-25-93

SENATE COMMITTEE ON State Administration

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: HB 659 - Peterson

Name	Representing	Bill No.	Check One Support Oppose	
JESSE MURDO	DFS	659	✓	
Charles Rehbein	Gov Office on Aging	659	✓	

VISITOR REGISTER

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY