

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 53rd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & CLAIMS

Call to Order: By Senator Judy Jacobson, Chair, on April 19, 1993, at 10:00 a.m., Room 108.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Judy Jacobson, Chair (D)
Sen. Gary Aklestad (R)
Sen. Tom Beck (R)
Sen. Chris Christiaens (D)
Sen. Gerry Devlin (R)
Sen. Gary Forrester (D)
Sen. Ethel Harding (R)
Sen. Bob Hockett (D)
Sen. Tom Keating (R)
Sen. J.D. Lynch (D)
Sen. Chuck Swysgood (R)
Sen. Daryl Toews (R)
Sen. Larry Tveit (R)
Sen. Eleanor Vaughn (D)
Sen. Mignon Waterman (D)
Sen. Cecil Weeding (D)

Members Excused: Senators Franklin, Bianchi, Fritz, Jergeson

Members Absent: None.

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: HJR 27, HJR 29
Executive Action: HJR 27, HJR 29

HEARING ON HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 27

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Representative McCarthy, District 66, sponsor, stated HJR 27 would request an interim study of the needs of Montana veterans, and a report of that to the 54th legislature.

Rep. McCarthy stated that veterans comprise one-eighth of the total population of Montana or 101,544 throughout the state. Over one-third of the veterans are in southwestern Montana, which is one of the reasons they thought it would be a good use for Galen. She concluded that at the present time there are 95 nursing beds for veterans in Montana.

Proponents' Testimony:

Keith Colbo, Warm Springs-Galen Task Force, in stating his support of HJR 27, said this resolution is not intended to conflict with the wishes of eastern Montana and that facility, but it will take a look at veterans' care now and in the future. He concluded the population figures indicate a growing concern and need in Montana for these services in the state.

Tony Cumming, American Legion of Montana, in stating his support of HJR 27, said the study is very necessary so that people will understand what veterans are up against in Montana.

Dick Baumberger, Disabled American Veterans, stated his support of HJR 27.

John DenHerder, a war veteran, stated his support of the resolution. He said there are many problems out there. The few nursing beds in Miles City have no activity rooms, and it is not truly a nursing home. He concluded that he would like to see the veterans have a campus such as Galen where they can have their own facilities.

Willie Day, Eastern Montana Coalition, stated his support of the resolution as a study for the veterans' needs after the Eastern Montana Veterans Nursing Home is built. He noted that currently there are only 90 nursing home beds in the state. He would support looking into the possibility of something at Galen to serve the needs of veterans.

Senator Betty Bruski-Maus, Senate District 12, stated her support of HJR 27.

Opponents' Testimony:

None.

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

None.

Closing by Sponsor:

Representative McCarthy closed. She said the funding is in the neighborhood of \$40,000 using Senator Lynch's study last time. In talking with Representative Grady, they would anticipate it would come from the cigarette tax.

HEARING ON HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 29Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Representative Dolezal, District 34, Great Falls, sponsor, said HJR 29 is directing a study of the governance of the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind. The reason for the study is that the school is set out by itself and is not sure where the governance for the school should belong. It is currently under the Board of Public Education. There are other schools of a sort that are under the Department of Institutions, and the question is where the School for the Deaf and Blind best fits. The School provides services to communities throughout the state in the form of an outreach program.

Proponents' Testimony:

Robert Runkel, Director of Special Education, Office of Public Instruction, stated they are a willing partner in the study of the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind. He added that he is confident that a quality impartial and thorough report can be prepared for review by the Legislative Finance Committee, the Board of Public Education and the Office of Public Instruction (OPI). He said the federal Regional Resource Center (RRC) provides services for about 20 different areas of technical assistance. The study would be under the scope of one type of technical assistance agreements. He envisions no problem with the federal RRC participating in this study.

Opponents' Testimony:

None.

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

Senator Aklestad questioned if the monies available from the federal government for the study are also available for the school to be using for educational purposes.

Mr. Runkel said no, the State of Montana currently receives no dollars for any technical assistance agreements. They are services offered by RRC so there are no dollars coming into the state for providing technical assistance.

Senator Weeding asked if the function of the RRC is to make these evaluations.

Mr. Runkel said the federal RRC is to provide technical assistance to education departments in the state. At the state's discretion, it is to improve the quality of special education services to children in the state.

Closing by Sponsor:

Representative Dolezal closed, stating the ultimate decision will be made by the state. This study will make recommendations as to what type of governance model this school would best fit under; it may later find out it is properly placed under the Board of Public Education. He concluded there is a committee to report its recommendations no later than November '94, which will give the Legislative Finance Committee time to act on it. The report will also be presented to the Board of Public Education and the Office of Public Instruction.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

Motion/Vote: Senator Lynch moved that HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 27 BE ADOPTED. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 29

Motion: Senator Waterman moved that HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 29 BE ADOPTED.


Discussion: Senator Devlin questioned if OPI would get these monies anyway that come out of RRC.

Mr. Runkel said OPI annually receives the services from RRC. It technically would not require formal action by the legislature for them to access those services.

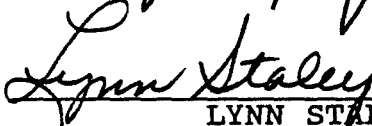
Vote: Motion that HJR 29 BE ADOPTED CARRIED unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:30 a.m.



JUDY JACOBSON, Chair



LYNN STALEY, Secretary

JJ/LS

ROLL CALL

SENATE COMMITTEE FINANCE AND CLAIMS

DATE 4/19/93

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 <i>Doews</i>	✓		
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
April 19, 1993

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Finance and Claims having had under consideration House Joint Resolution No. 27 (third reading copy - blue), respectfully report that House Joint Resolution No. 27 be concurred in.

Signed: Judy H. Jacobson
Senator Judy H. Jacobson, Chair

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Page 1 of 1
April 19, 1993

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Finance and Claims having had under consideration House Joint Resolution No. 29 (third reading copy - blue), respectfully report that House Joint Resolution No. 29 be concurred in.

Signed: Judy H. Jacobson
Senator Judy H. Jacobson, Chair

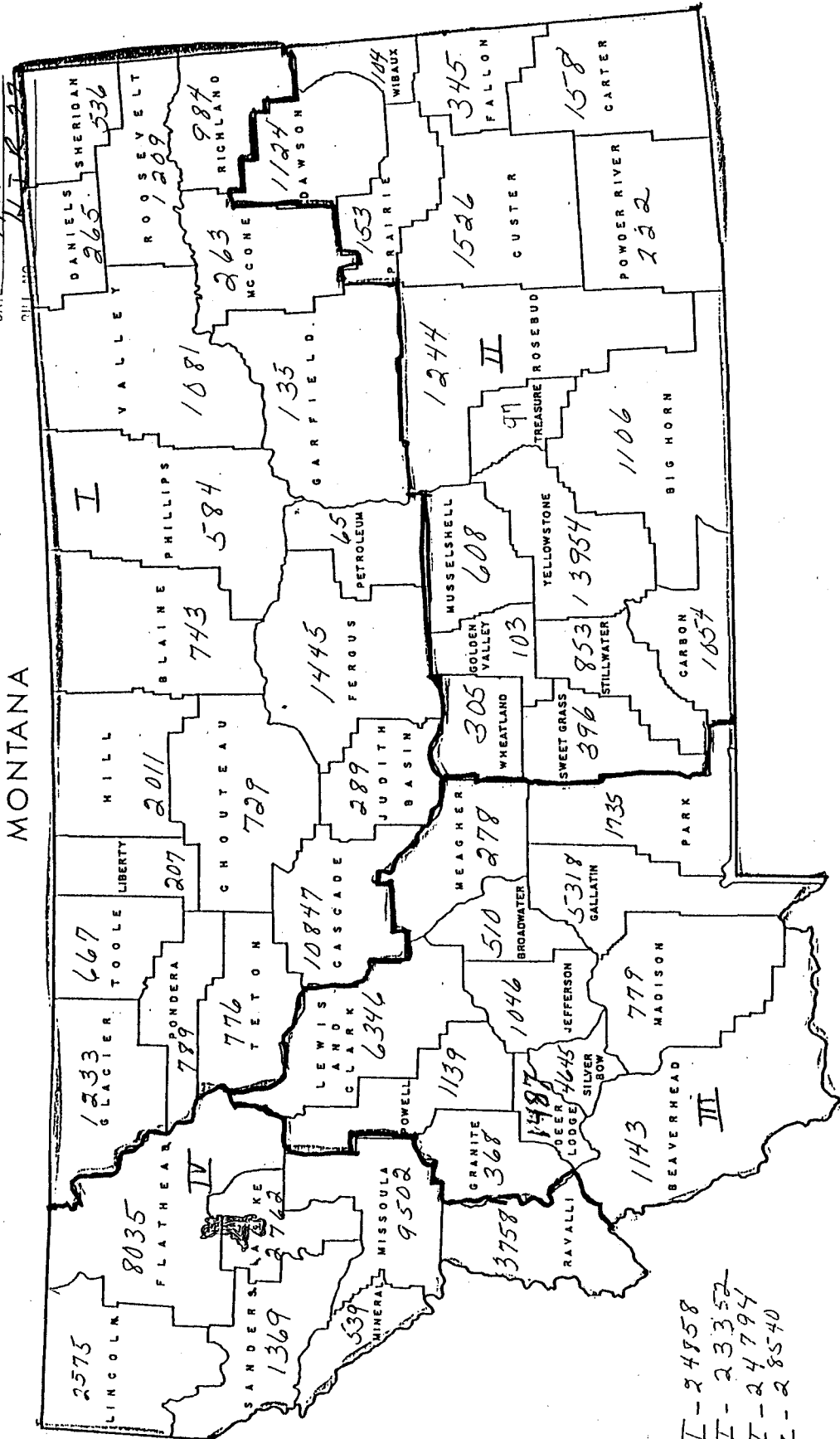
Veterans in Montana

1990 101,544

SENATE FINANCE AND CLAIMS

EMEND NO. 1
DATE 4/19/93

MONTANA



I - 24958
II - 23352
III - 24794
IV - 28540

Printed to meet the needs of the Montana Legislature

No. 103 - County Outline Map (10 to a page)

DATE April 19, 1983

SENATE COMMITTEE ON Finance And Claims

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: HJR 27, HJR 29

Name	Representing	Bill No.	Check One Support Oppose
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Dick Baumbarger	Disabled Am. Veterans	HJR 27	X	
H. Tony Cummings	AMERICAN LEGION OF MT	HJR 27	X	
Willie Day	Eastern Mt. Coalition	HJR 29	X	
Sen Betty Brundage Mauer	SD 12	HJR 27	X	
John M. Newkirk	Vet	HJR 27	X	

VISITOR REGISTER

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY

DATE April 19, 1993

SENATE COMMITTEE ON Finance And Claims

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: HJR 27, HJR 29

Name	Representing	Bill No.	Check One	
			Support	Oppose
Robert Dunkel	Office of Public Instruction	HJR 29	X	

VISITOR REGISTER

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY