

MINUTES

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & CLAIMS

Call to Order: By Senator Judy Jacobson, Chair, on December 3, 1993, at 2:50 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Judy Jacobson, Chair (D)
Sen. Eve Franklin, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Gary Aklestad (R)
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. Bob Hockett (D)
Sen. Greg Jergeson (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: Senator Harding

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Clayton Schenck, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Lynn Staley, Committee Secretary

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

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing: None
Executive Action: SB 16, SB 15, SB 14, SB 13, SB 9, SB 3

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SENATE BILL 16

Motion: Senator Aklestad moved Senate Bill 16 DO NOT PASS.
Senator Aklestad made a substitute motion to TABLE Senate Bill

16.

Discussion: Senator Waterman said although this is a valuable program, the special session needs to make cuts and issues like this need to be addressed.

Senator Jacobson said this is not a debatable motion.

Vote: The motion CARRIED to TABLE Senate Bill 16 with Senators Lynch, Bianchi, Fritz and Waterman opposed.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SENATE BILL 15

Motion/Vote: Senator Jergeson moved that Senate Bill 15 BE TABLED. The motion CARRIED with Senator Fritz opposed.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SENATE BILL 14

Motion: Senator Christiaens moved that Senate Bill 14 DO PASS.

Discussion: Senator Jacobson said the fiscal note reflects that the general fund savings in revenue would total \$74,200.

Senator Aklestad felt the costs are passed onto the consumer. He said although it was indicated that would not happen, it would appear to him the commissioner's office could send out a memo to the insurance people that this could be done so they could work from paper shuffling to the electronic method without having a statute. He said in statutorily mandating something, there is a greater effort to get it done in a short period of time, and someone ends up paying for that.

Senator Christiaens said this is not going to cost any more for those insurance companies who go to the electronic filing. The increased fee of \$5 is only for those that do not do the electronic filing. In fact, the budget is being reduced. \$25,000 will be taken out of the budget for every year in the future. He indicated there are some start up costs, but they will be working with the industry to come up with compatible software so there will be permanent savings passed onto the consumer.

Senator Aklestad said it was going to cost the insurance companies more to set up for electronic filing than it would be to shuffle the papers. He felt the cost will go to the consumer.

Senator Jacobson said although there is no program at this time, it is evident a lot of them are interested in doing this or they wouldn't have asked the State Auditor for the program. We have to assume most of them want to gear up to the program.

Senator Devlin said in looking at the fiscal note, if there is a general fund revenue, there is an increase in revenue of \$49,000 from the fees.

Senator Christiaens said part of the reason there is more of an income is that a one time single check is being written now. Insurance companies aren't terminating agents, even though they are required to by law, because of taking the time to write a \$10 check for every agent that is terminated. There are a lot of people who are no longer agents. Once the program is up and running, it should save everyone money.

Vote: The motion CARRIED with Senators Swysgood, Devlin, Beck, Aklestad and Tveit opposed.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SENATE BILL 13

Motion/Vote: Senator Bianchi moved Senate Bill 13 DO PASS. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SENATE BILL 9

Motion: Senator Toews moved that the amendments to SB 9 be adopted (Exhibit 1).

Discussion: Senator Waterman asked if this would allow renegotiations only in the unified districts and not in consolidated districts.

Senator Toews said it allows renegotiation of consolidated districts since it is a new entity.

Senator Weeding asked if it was limited to salaries and benefits.

Senator Toews said yes.

Vote: The motion on the amendments (Exhibit 1) PASSED with Senator Lynch voting no.

Motion: Senator Aklestad moved Senate Bill 9 AS AMENDED DO PASS.

Vote: The motion that Senate Bill 9 AS AMENDED DO PASS CARRIED on a roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SENATE BILL 3

Discussion: Senator Keating said he has amendments that would cap the program, adjust the benefits and change the income eligibilities as well as add some reporting requirements with


regard to income into the bill. It would eventually phase out the program through the demise of the recipients. It would cap it so there would be no new recipients. It will save money in the long run but with not much of an immediate savings. He said Senator Lynch has indicated he is going to make a move to kill the bill, and he didn't want to take the time to explain the amendments until he knew if there is interest to change the program.

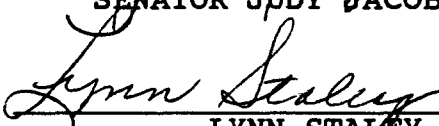
Senator Lynch said before going through the amendments, he would suggest this bill should not pass. He noted that as soon as one of these widows or victims die, the savings would be there anyway. The assumption made by the budget office is that none of them are going to die immediately. He said this program is going to be eliminated within a 10 year period and concluded this is not a welfare program; it is an entitlement program.

Motion/Vote: Senator Lynch moved Senate Bill 3 BE TABLED. The motion CARRIED on a roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.


SENATOR JUDY JACOBSON, Chair


LYNN STALEY, Secretary

JJ/ljs

ROLL CALL

SENATE COMMITTEE FINANCE & CLAIMS

DATE 12/3/93
p.m. meeting

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 SWYSGOOD	✓		
SENATOR TOEWS	✓		
SENATOR TVEIT	✓		
SENATOR VAUGHN	✓		
SENATOR WATERMAN	✓		
SENATOR WEEDING	✓		

Attach to each day's minutes

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Page 1 of 1
December 3, 1993

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Finance and Claims having had under consideration Senate Bill No. 9 (first reading copy -- white), respectfully report that Senate Bill No. 9 be amended as follows and as so amended do pass.

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

That such amendments read:

1. Title, line 6.
Following: "SCHOOL DISTRICTS"
Strike: "CONSOLIDATE OR UNIFY"
Insert: "REORGANIZE UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 20, CHAPTER 6"
2. Page 1, line 15.
Following: "districts"
Strike: remainder of line 15
Insert: "reorganize"
3. Page 1, line 18.
Following: "agreements"
Insert: "pertaining to salaries and benefits"
4. Page 1, line 21.
Following: "20-4-208"
Strike: "and [section 1]"
5. Page 2, line 2.
Following: "salary"
Insert: ", except as provided in [section 1],"

-END-

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Page 1 of 1
December 3, 1993

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Finance and Claims having had under consideration Senate Bill No. 13 (first reading copy -- white), respectfully report that Senate Bill No. 13 do pass.

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

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Page 1 of 1
December 3, 1993

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Finance and Claims having had under consideration Senate Bill No. 14 (first reading copy -- white), respectfully report that Senate Bill No. 14 do pass.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE ①

SENATE COMMITTEE FINANCE AND CLAIMS

BILL NO. SB 9

DATE 12/3/93

TIME _____ A.M. P.M.

NAME	YES	NO
SENATOR JACOBSON		✓
SENATOR JERGESON		✓
SENATOR AKLESTAD	✓	
SENATOR BECK	✓	
SENATOR BIANCHI		✓
SENATOR CHRISTIAENS		✓
SENATOR DEVLIN	✓	
SENATOR FORRESTER	✓	
SENATOR FRANKLIN		✓
SENATOR FRITZ		✓
SENATOR HARDING <i>Absent</i>		
SENATOR HOCKETT	✓	
SENATOR KEATING	✓	
SENATOR LYNCH		✓
SENATOR TOEWS	✓	
SENATOR SWYSGOOD	✓	
SENATOR TVEIT	✓	
SENATOR VAUGHN	✓	
SENATOR WATERMAN		✓
SENATOR WEEDING	✓	

Lynn Staley
SECRETARY

CHAIR

MOTION: Senator Aklestad moved
SB 9 as amended do pass.

TABLED BILL REPORT

SENATE COMMITTEE

James C. Clemons

TABLED BILL(S)

SB 116 SB 15

SB 3

DATE

12/3/93

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

John W. Bailey

PHONE

716-855

ROOM

303

F12

TABLE F12

ROLL CALL VOTE (2)

SENATE COMMITTEE FINANCE AND CLAIMS

BILL NO. SB 3

DATE 12/3/93 TIME _____ A.M. P.M.

NAME	YES	NO
SENATOR JACOBSON	✓	
SENATOR JERGESON	✓	
SENATOR AKLESTAD		✓
SENATOR BECK		✓
SENATOR BIANCHI	✓	
SENATOR CHRISTIAENS	✓	
SENATOR DEVLIN		✓
SENATOR FORRESTER	✓	
SENATOR FRANKLIN	✓	
SENATOR FRITZ	✓	
SENATOR HARDING	<i>Absent</i>	
SENATOR HOCKETT	✓	
SENATOR KEATING		✓
SENATOR LYNCH	✓	
SENATOR TOEWS		✓
SENATOR SWYSGOOD		✓
SENATOR TVEIT		✓
SENATOR VAUGHN	✓	
SENATOR WATERMAN	✓	
SENATOR WEEDING	✓	

Lynn Stealey
SECRETARY

CHAIR

MOTION: Sen. Lynch moved
SB 3 Be Tabled. Motion Carried

Amendments to Senate Bill No. 9
First Reading Copy

Requested by Senator Toews
For the Committee on Finance and Claims

Prepared by Eddy McClure
December 2, 1993

SENATE FINANCE AND CLAIMS
EXHIBIT NO. 12/3/93
DATE 12/3/93
BILL NO. SB 93

1. Title, line 6.

Following: "SCHOOL DISTRICTS"

Strike: "CONSOLIDATE OR UNIFY"

Insert: "REORGANIZE UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 20, CHAPTER 6"

2. Page 1, line 15.

Following: "districts"

Strike: remainder of line 15

Insert: "reorganize"

3. Page 1, line 18.

Following: "agreements"

Insert: "pertaining to salaries and benefits"

4. Page 1, line 21.

Following: "20-4-208"

Strike: "and [section 1]"

5. Page 2, line 2.

Following: "salary"

Insert: ", except as provided in [section 1],"