

## **MINUTES**

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

**Call to Order:** By Senator Vaughn, on December 15, 1993, at 11:30 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:** Senator Swift

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** David Niss, Legislative Council  
Sylvia Kinsey, Committee Secretary

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

##### **Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing: None  
Executive Action: SB 51, HB 35

#### **EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SENATE BILL 51**

**Motion:** Senator Weldon moved to amend SB 51 page 2, line 18 strike "exempt" and replace it with "except".

**Discussion:** Senator Weldon said this was apparently a typographical error.

**Vote:** The motion to amend passed unanimously.

**Motion/Vote:** Senator Weldon moved Senate Bill 51 do pass as amended. The motion passed unanimously. Senator Swift left his vote with the Chair.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HOUSE BILL 35

**Motion:** Senator Pipinich moved to amend HB 35 to strike "15" and insert "12". (This motion involves the title, line 8, page 1, lines 14 and 21 and page 2, lines 8 and 11)

**Discussion:** Senator Pipinich said he was making this motion at the request of the sponsor of the bill.

Senator Hockett said he did not know how many departments we have now. There was comments that it was either 19 or 20. Senator Weldon said the point is that they want to reduce the number of departments we have. A comment was made that the Governor has appointed a task force to look into this reorganization, he is a member, and his thought was that this Legislature should send some message to that task force indicating they are interested in down sizing government. He said this would be a good way to tell the Governor that the Legislature will support this move.

Senator Hockett said he had a problem with amending the constitution, and to etch this stuff in stone was not necessarily good.

Senator Pipinich said this bill has a lot of support because it received 50 votes in the House. For this bill to go anywhere in the Senate it has to receive all 50 Senate votes. His feeling was that this is sending a message to the committee that we would like to down size somewhere. The sponsor of the bill said he would like to stick with 12 departments.

Senator Tveit said he had a concern that this bill would go to the vote of the people next fall. There will be other initiatives on the ballot on size, taxes, etc. and said there is a study being made to discuss down sizing. To give the people of Montana this proposal without it going through the Legislative process so we can have a part in it, would be premature.

Senator Burnett said this would need a total of 100 votes and there is no chance of getting them.

**Vote:** The vote on the amendment to change the number of departments from 15 to 12 passed with Senator Swift voting no.

**Motion:** Senator Weldon moved House Bill 35, as amended, be concurred in.

**Discussion:** Senator McClernan said if this goes to the election of '94, when will the commission you are on meet. Senator Weldon said the schedule he has heard is that they would start work in January and by November have the work completed so that in November and December we can work on legislation for the January '95 Legislature to consider.

SENATE STATE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

December 15, 1993

Page 3 of 3

Senator Weldon said when this task force gets together, we will hear all sorts of reasons why government should be kept at the same size. This would give the task force a target to try to bring it down to a dozen departments, it would give a goal for us to work for. The people have already told us they want less government, and this is one way to do it.

Senator McClernan asked if he understood correctly, that regardless of what the vote is on this committee it will still go back to the House floor. He was told yes it would go back to the House, regardless of votes.

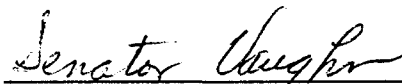
Senator Tveit said he would like to reiterate his statements on the amendments, because that is what he wants to say on the bill itself.

Senator Hertel said he believed the task force must already have the picture that people want down sizing. He was concerned with being locked into a position it would be difficult to correct later on.

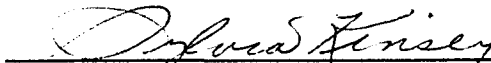
Vote: House Bill 35, as amended passed with Senators Tveit, Hertel and Swift voting no. Senator Fritz will carry the bill.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:15 p.m.



SENATOR VAUGHN, Chair



SYLVIA KINSEY, Secretary

EV/sk

## ROLL CALL

SENATE COMMITTEE on STATE ADMINISTRATION DATE 12-15-77

[illegible]

Attach to each day's minutes

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Page 1 of 1  
December 15, 1993

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on State Administration having had under consideration House Bill No. 35 (third reading copy -- blue), respectfully report that House Bill No. 35 be amended as follows and as so amended be concurred in.

Signed: Senator Vaughn  
Senator Eleanor Vaughn, Chair

That such amendments read:

1. Title, line 8.

Strike: "15"

Insert: "12"

2. Page 1, lines 14 and 21.

Strike: "15"

Insert: "12"

3. Page 2, lines 8 and 11.

Strike: "15"

Insert: "12"

-END-

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Page 1 of 1  
December 15, 1993

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on State Administration having had under consideration Senate Bill No. 51 (first reading copy -- white), respectfully report that Senate Bill No. 51 be amended as follows and as so amended do pass.

Signed: Senator Vaughn  
Senator Eleanor Vaughn, Chair

That such amendments read:

1. Page 2, line 18.

Strike: "exempt"

Insert: "except"

-END-



# MONTANA STATE SENATE

To Senator Vaughn

Letters follows - 12/15/93

House SB 57 - Y amendment  
Y as amended.

Wagerried - HB 35

No on amendment

No on the floor

Signed Bernice Swift