

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE

53rd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE BILL 169

Call to Order: By Senator Ed Kennedy, Chair, on March 23, 1993,
at 11:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Senator Ed Kennedy, Chair (D)
Senator Sue Bartlett (D)
Senator John Harp (R)
Representative Norm Wallin (R)
Representative David Ewer (D)
Representative Randy Vogel (R)

Members Excused:

None.

Members Absent:

None.

Staff Present: Connie Erickson, Legislative Council
Sylvia Kinsey, Secretary

Discussion:

Representative Ewer said the House would have accepted the Senate amendments to House Bill 169 but Alec Hansen of the Montana Association of Counties (MACO) asked to amend the bill. The only way the House could do that was to reject the Senate amendments. This would then cause the bill to go to a conference committee. Representative Ewer presented a written explanation of what Mr. Hansen proposed. He said the House is prepared to accept the Senate amendments.

Senator Harp said that basically it would say "maintenance" and not try to include building of roads and bridges.

Connie Erickson said it was her understanding that he would like the bill to read that the bid limit for equipment and materials should be \$20,000 and the bid limit for construction, repair or maintenance is \$25,000. All language would be struck referring to building, road or bridges.

Representative Ewer said Mr. Hansen was trying to parallel the best he can with what the counties have. He did not pick up on the county language, and in fact it artificial language since they do not maintain bridges, etc.

Representative Vogel said the Senate changed it from \$45,000 down to \$25,000. He asked for the rationale. Senator Harp said they thought that was too high a limit and it would exclude some people from the private sector to be able to competitively bid. It was pointed out that the rationale in raising it was because a block of road could not be paved for that amount nor could anything else. He stated no one would bid at those smaller amounts.

Ms. Erickson pointed out that this was a Conference Committee and a Conference Committee could not amend the bill, they could only work on the rejected amendments.

Discussion followed in which some members thought this was a Free Conference Committee.

Senator Bartlett pointed out that originally it was a Free Conference Committee, but both the Senate and the House requested the Free Conference Committee be resolved and a Conference Committee be appointed.


Senator Kennedy concluded that it was the consensus of this committee that this Conference Committee be dissolved and a Free Conference Committee be appointed.

Following the conclusion of the Conference Committee the members agreed to the Senate amendment but because they wished to change some things they voted down the Senate amendments. Therefore a Free Conference Committee made up of the same members could be appointed to make a small change.

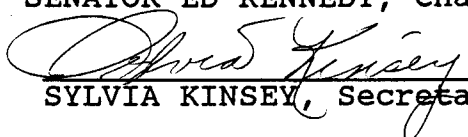
The Committee agreed to the change and it was decided Senator Kennedy and Representative Wallin would ask that the Conference Committee be dissolved and a Free Conference Committee appointed. Since all members were in agreement on what should be done there would be no need for a further meeting. Once the Free Conference Committee was appointed the reports would be prepared, signed, and turned over to the respective houses.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment at 11:47 p.m.



SENATOR ED KENNEDY, Chair



SYLVIA KINSEY, Secretary

EK/sk

ROLL CALL

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE BILL 169

DATE 3-23-93

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
REPRESENTATIVE WALLIN	✓		
REPRESENTATIVE EWER	✓		
REPRESENTATIVE VOGEL	✓		
SENATOR BARTLETT	✓		
SENATOR HARP	✓		
SENATOR KENNEDY	✓		