

MINUTES

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

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON SENATE BILL 332

Call to Order: By Senator Jeff Weldon, Chair, on April 24, 1993,
at 2:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Senator Jeff Weldon, Chair (D)
Senator Harry Fritz (D)
Senator Kenneth Mesaros (R)
Representative William "Bill" Ryan (D)
Representative Richard D. Simpkins (R)
Representative William Wiseman (R)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Kristie Wolter, Committee Secretary
Dave Bohyer, Legislative Council

Discussion:

Representative Simpkins stated that SB 332, without the Governors amendments, would make the transit board positions be voted and elected positions.

Senator Weldon stated the municipalities would vote on the Board members. He stated there Missoula and Great Falls would be affected by SB 332. Senator Weldon said he was resisting the Governors amendments the feelings of the Mayor and the County Commissioners in Missoula were that SB 332 would only prolong the turmoil on the Board. He stated the people should learn to trust their local governments. He stated the local governments are accountable to the same electorate as SB 332 would be with the Governor's amendment.

Representative Ryan stated the government has the authority to set the terms of office, the number of people in office and the ability to appoint people to the positions.

Senator Weldon stated the problem with SB 332 was the issue would still be around in a year and the City and the County would have to spend the money and the energy to focus on another election of the officials.

Representative Ryan stated the Mayor wants total control over the transit board and, therefore, would not allow the people to have a say in matters.

Representative Simpkins stated the government should not have to put every issue to the people's vote. He stated the airport authority has appointed positions and the transit authority should be appointed also. Representative Simpkins stated the County Commissioners and the Cities would like to have audit authority over the funds being spent by the transit authority.

Representative Ryan the election of Board members should not be removed from the public's power.

Representative Simpkins stated the people could appeal to the County Commissioner and ask that a person be appointed.

Representative Weldon stated if the City and County would like to try and appoint people then they should be able to present their views to the Commissioners.

Senator Mesaros stated the original language would allow the people to appeal to the Commissioner.

Senator Fritz stated the problems are from the bus managers which were hired.

Representative Simpkins stated the City Commissioners would have no jurisdiction other than the people whom they appoint. He stated the management is not being altered. He added that the bus systems should probably be eliminated altogether because they operate at a deficit.

Senator Weldon stated the transportation issues are municipal issues. He stated money which is provided for local governments will only be accessible to the local governments if those governments meet certain provisions. He stated SB 332 would give local governments more control over their individual transportation issues. Senator Weldon stated SB 332 has a provision which allows for anyone elected to the Board to finish his or her term.

Representative Simpkins stated entities and boards need to be controlled by the city. He stated the City Managers and County Commissioners are responsive to the peoples needs. He stated SB 332 should either be killed or the amendment should be removed.

Representative Ryan stated SB 332 should be reconsidered and amended. He stated the amendment does not "gut" the bill and is workable.

Representative Simpkins stated the transit districts should not exist as a separate entity within the city boundaries.

Senator Mesaros stated his constituents supported SB 332 in its original form.

Motion:

Representative Simpkins moved the governors amendments BE REJECTED (do not pass).

Discussion:

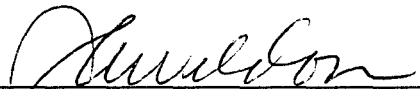
Mr. Bohyer stated if the Committee accepts Representative Simpkins amendment the reference copy of SB 332 would be adopted.

Vote:

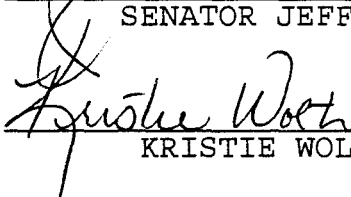
The motion CARRIED 5 to 1 with Representative Ryan voting NO.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 2:40 p.m.



SENATOR JEFF WELDON, Chair



KRISTIE WOLTER, Secretary

JW/klw

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Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

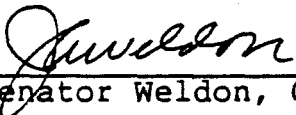
We, your Conference Committee on Senate Bill No. 332, met and considered: the Governor's amendments to Senate Bill No. 332. We recommend that Senate Bill No. 332 (reference copy - salmon) be amended as follows:

Reject the Governor's amendments to Senate Bill No. 332 in their entirety.

And that this Conference Committee report be adopted.

For the Senate:

For the House:



Senator Weldon, Chair



Representative Wiseman, Chair



Senator Fritz

Representative Ryan




Senator Mesaros



Representative Simpkins



Amd. Coord.



Sec. of Senate

ADOPT

REJECT

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