

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
54th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON SENATE BILL 223

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN TOM KEATING**, on April 7, 1995, at
2:10 PM

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Thomas F. Keating (R)
Sen. Larry L. Baer (R)
Sen. Mignon Waterman (D)
Rep. Royal C. Johnson (R)
Rep. Loren L. Soft (R)
Rep. Joe Barnett (R)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Karolyn Simpson, Secretary

Discussion: SB 223

Mary Dalton, Primary Care Bureau, Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, said SB 385, which **REP. COBB** amended on the Floor of the House, is contingent on funding and it includes some language regarding a sliding fee scale, which HCFA (Health Care Financing Administration) told SRS they cannot do without a waiver. They are not willing to grant a waiver for this kind of expansion group because they are already covered. It will have no effect on SB 223 because, all it does is give mental health coverage and SRS would still do a carve out for the mental health portions, to children up to 133% who have physical health coverage too. It doesn't have any effect on savings that were promised in SB 223.

SENATOR KEATING asked if that is already in the statutes.

Mary Dalton said it is for kids up to age 6.

SENATOR KEATING said, it's his understanding that medical assistance must be provided for infants and pregnant women that do not exceed 133%.

Mary Dalton said it was taken up to age 19.

REP. BARNHART said **REP. COBB** asked if there was enough money for the 200% poverty level eligibility. She asked if they are covered or not.

Mary Dalton said SB 223 will be under federal waivers. It must be cost controlled for the life of the bill to the Federal Government, so projections are taken on what you are drawing, which is called a Federal upper ceiling, meaning so much of the Federal money can be spent but there can be matching funds. It will be a capitated pool so the Managed Care Program gets so many dollars to serve people to 200% of poverty. The State is not at risk, the Managed Care Company is taking that risk. People with any kind of serious mental illness are already being served to 200% through the Community Mental Health Centers.

REP. BARNHART asked if this is for adults and children.

Mary Dalton said yes.

SENATOR KEATING said there are 3 House Members and 3 Senate members present. He said the Committee is dealing with SB 223 and the amendments by the House, changing the bill from the Senate version.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 223

Motion: **SENATOR WATERMAN** moved to strike the House Amendments and return SB 223 to the Senate version.

SENATOR KEATING asked **SENATOR WATERMAN** if her motion is for the House to recede from its amendment.


SENATOR WATERMAN said yes.

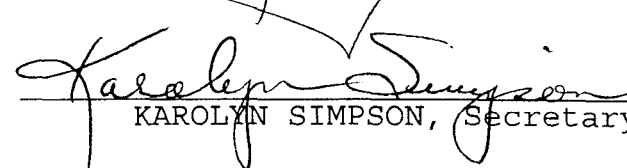
Discussion: **SENATOR KEATING** said there is only one amendment, which is on page 11, lines 20-24, which deletes the 200% poverty eligibility level, and by accepting the motion for the House to recede from its amendment, then 200% of poverty will be the eligibility level for the Managed Care Program.

Vote: The motion to strike the House Amendments and return SB 223 to the Senate version CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 2:15 PM


SENATOR TOM KEATING, Chairman


KAROLYN SIMPSON, Secretary

Conference Committee
on SB 223
Report No. 1, April 7, 1995

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Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

We, your Conference Committee on SB 223, met April 7, 1995, and considered:

House Committee of the Whole amendment to the third reading copy dated March 29, 1995.

We recommend that SB 223 (reference copy - salmon) be amended as follows:

1. Page 11, line 24.

Following: "~~department.~~"

Insert: "The department may establish resource and income standards of eligibility for mental health services that are more liberal than the resource and income standards of eligibility for physical health services. The standards for eligibility for mental health services may provide for eligibility for households with family income that does not exceed 200% of the federal poverty threshold or that does not exceed a lesser amount determined in the discretion of the department."

And that this Conference Committee report be adopted.

For the Senate:

Keating

Chair

Baer

Waterman

Amd. Coord.

Sec. of Senate

For the House:

Royal Johnson

Chair

Soft

Barnhart

ADOPT

REJECT

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