

MINUTES

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

FREE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON SENATE BILL 395

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN TOM BECK**, on April 12, 1995, at 6:20 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Thomas A. "Tom" Beck (R)
Sen. Greg Jergeson (D)
Sen. Charles "Chuck" Swysgood (R)
Rep. Edward J. "Ed" Grady (R)
Rep. Bob Raney (D)
Rep. Douglas T. Wagner (R)

Members Excused: none

Members Absent: none

Staff Present: Greg Petesch, Legislative Council
Elaine Johnston, Secretary

Discussion:

CHAIRMAN BECK asked **REP. BOB RANEY** to tell the committee what he has proposed.

REP. RANEY said that HB 395 extends what agencies were required to do when they worked with local governments to draw up plans for weed control which they had not been doing. There had not been an integrated noxious weed management program and the agencies had not been working with local governments. The State Weed Board drew up the bill by what they felt would coordinate state and local government to work together on an integrated weed management program. He said that the agriculture people wanted to get away from only using chemicals and deal with using bugs and educating people on weeds. The problem was the fiscal note had three departments, the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), the University, and the Department of State Lands (DSL) who needed money for the program because they had never complied with existing law. The University told them they did not need the money, they would eat the cost just the day before leaving them with two problems. DSL had the money in a resource development account but with the language in HB 395 they could use an employee or a contractor. He said that was \$54,000 already in the Department and they were not robbing any program of anything. The weed people at the Department of Agriculture

said they only needed the \$54,000 once rather than the \$54,000 each year for two years. REP. RANEY said he only gave DSL one year instead of two like they had requested. The \$18,800 would be used to contract out to someone to draw up a plan. The money would come from the weed trust fund which would have an ending fund balance of \$552,000 at the end of the biennium. They had kept such terrible track of their money that they had way more money than they thought they had. The money had to be used in grant form, so it would be granted to the Department of Agriculture to grant to DNRC to do their share of the plan. That would pull it all together and leave \$2 million in the biennium for integrated noxious weed management that would work through the weed coordinator in the Department of Agriculture. It would be the first time in Montana history that there was a coordinated effort.

Motion/Vote: SEN. GREG JERGESON MOVED THE AMENDMENT. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Discussion:

SEN. CHUCK SWYSGOOD asked if the money would go directly into HB 395 and would not effect HB 2?

REP. RANEY said that was correct.

REP. ED GRADY asked what grant process it would go through?

REP. RANEY said that the way the law read, the money had to be granted according to 87-8-14. That meant the State Weed Board had to approve the grant. However, since it was the Weed Board's bill and the last hurdle they had to make there would not be a problem.

Motion/Vote: SEN. SWYSGOOD MOVED HB 395 AS AMENDED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion/Vote: SEN. SWYSGOOD MOVED ADOPTION OF THE FREE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 6:26 p.m.



SEN. TOM BECK, Chairman



ELAINE JOHNSTON, Secretary

TB/ej



FREE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

on House Bill 395

Report No. 1, April 12, 1995

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Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

We, your Free Conference Committee met and considered **House Bill 395** and recommend the following amendments:

WE REJECT THE GOVERNOR'S AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 395, DATED APRIL 10, 1995, AND FURTHER AMEND HOUSE BILL NO. 395, REFERENCE COPY, AS FOLLOWS:

1. Title, line 11.

Following: "COORDINATOR;"

Insert: "APPROPRIATING MONEY FROM THE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS AND FROM THE NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT STATE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO DEVELOP NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PLANS;"

2. Page 2, following line 9.

Insert: "NEW SECTION. Section 2. Appropriation. (1) There is appropriated \$54,046 in fiscal year 1996 to the department of state lands from the resource development account for the development of the plan provided for in [section 1].

(2) There is appropriated \$18,865 in fiscal year 1996 from the noxious weed management state special revenue fund to the department of agriculture as a grant to the department of natural resources and conservation for the development of the plan provided for in [section 1]. The money must be granted pursuant to 80-7-814."

Renumber: subsequent section

We recommend that the amendments to House Bill 395 be acceded to by the senate.

ADOPT

REJECT

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And this FREE Conference Committee report be adopted.

For the House:

Grady

E. Grady

Chair

Raney

Douglas T. Wagner

Wagner

Bob Raney

For the Senate:

Beck

Tom Beck

Chair

Jorgenson

Jorgenson

Swysgood

Swysgood