MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 54th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION

Call to Order: By CHAIRMAN ETHEL HARDING, on February 16, 1995, at 10:00 AM

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Ethel M. Harding, Chairman (R)

Sen. Kenneth "Ken" Mesaros, Vice Chairman (R)

Sen. Mack Cole (R)

Sen. Mike Foster (R)

Sen. Don Hargrove (R)

Sen. Vivian M. Brooke (D)

Sen. Bob Pipinich (D)

Sen. Jeff Weldon (D)

Members Excused: N/A

Members Absent: N/A

Staff Present: David Niss, Legislative Council

Gail Moser, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and

discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

SB 357, SB 363, HJR 15

Hearing: SB 357, SB 363, Executive Action: HJR 15, SB 337

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Counter: 54.4}

HEARING ON SB 357

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SENATOR FRED VAN VALKENBURG, Senate District 32, Missoula, opened the hearing on SB 357, which would allow all members of the Firefighters Unified Retirement System to receive a regular service retirement benefit after 20 years of service, regardless of age, and modify benefit requirements. He stated SB 357 would establish equity between the Firefighters Unified Retirement System and other hazardous duty retirement systems.

Proponents' Testimony:

Captain Dean Riggin, Montana State Fireman's Association, distributed an injury survey (EXHIBIT 1) which delineated the number of job related lost work hours due to injuries/illnesses per 100 workers by occupation. He discussed the increased demands, training, and expectations placed on firefighters and added firefighting has become more difficult and dangerous. Mr. Riggin said firefighters are also providing a high level of emergency medical services to their communities with 80% of firefighter responses related to medical emergencies. He noted municipalities are requiring a higher level of mental and physical qualifications to meet the demands of firefighting responsibilities, often requiring lifestyle changes for individuals. Mr. Riggin said the demands of the job are more suited to younger individuals, and modifications in the retirement systems would encourage retirement of older individuals while making way for younger firefighters (EXHIBIT 2).

Pat Clinch, Montana State Council of Professional Firefighters, noted the 60% benefit cap would be removed and allow 2% per year for each additional year of service above 20 years. He further reiterated the modifications in section 5 dealing with service retirement benefits. Mr. Clinch noted the employee cost would increase by 1.8% to 7.8%, with the employer contribution increasing by 1.34% to 14.36% of salary. The increase to cities, using 1994 actuarial evaluations, is \$166,485. The state contribution increase is .94%, bringing it to 24.21% of salary, or \$115,545. Pension contributions are increased by 4.8% overall.

Kim Flatow, testifying for Linda King, Public Employees
Retirement Division, read prepared testimony in support of
SB 357 (EXHIBIT 3). The testimony covered retirement
eligibility, elimination of the 60% maximum benefit limitation,
and increasing benefit accrual rates after 20 years of service.

Jerry Williams, Montana Police Protective Association, stood in support of SB 357 on the issue of equity in retirement with other hazardous duty retirement systems.

Opponents' Testimony:

Jim Kembel, City of Billings, expressed opposition and concern with the legislation based on current tax problems and what he feels is a benefit to one group of employees. This, he stated, will cause problems among various local government employee groups. Mr. Kembel added that the cost to the city of Billings would be \$45,000.

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

SENATOR MIKE FOSTER questioned Senator Van Valkenburg on the coordinating section, new section 10. SENATOR VAN VALKENBURG deferred the question to Dean Riggin, who replied that there had been coordination provisions with HB 268 built into SB 357 if HB 268 is passed.

SENATOR DON HARGROVE asked Dean Riggin if a firefighter could retire after 10 years of service. Mr. Riggin stated he did not have specific figures for early retirement, but he could provide that information for the Committee.

SENATOR HARGROVE said it appeared as though the overall amount of retirement benefits received would be about equal by either retiring after 10 years of service with a reduced benefit for a longer period of time or after 20 years with a greater benefit for a shorter period of time. Mr. Riggin said he believed the benefit amount would be quite a bit less. He said Linda King had told him it is simpler for the retirement system and is less costly to actuarially reduce the benefit.

SENATOR HARGROVE questioned Jim Kembel about his position on the issue of retirement equalization. **Mr. Kembel** stated he did support retirement equalization.

SENATOR KEN MESAROS asked Pat Clinch to clarify the state contribution of \$115,000 in the fiscal note. Mr. Clinch replied the figure was based on 1994 actuarial figures of firefighters' salaries.

SENATOR VIVIAN ÉROOKE asked Pat Clinch if he had reviewed the coordinating instructions in section 10 when the calculations were made. Mr. Clinch replied he had developed costs based on 1994 salary levels in the actuarial figures.

SENATOR BROOKE commented that she understands that if HB 268 passes, the percentage in section 2 will be changed from 24.21% to 24.45%.

SENATOR JEFF WELDON asked Pat Clinch if he had calculated the figure for the expense to local governments based on 14.44%.

Mr. Clinch stated he did not.

Closing by Sponsor:

SENATOR VAN VALKENBURG closed the hearing on SB 357, noting how this Committee wanted to be fully informed on the financial consequences of legislation passed out of Committee. He stressed the equity issue and the need to recruit younger people into firefighting positions.

HEARING ON SB 363

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SENATOR STEVE DOHERTY, Senate District 24, Great Falls, opened the hearing on SB 363, providing an ad hoc benefit increase for certain retired members of the Firefighters' Unified Retirement System and increasing state contributions from the insurance premium tax to fund the increase. SB 363 provides a 10% increase in the monthly service, disability, or survivorship benefit paid to the member or the member's beneficiary. The legislation would impact those individuals who had retired on or before June 30, 1990. He added a fiscal note is not available at this time.

SENATOR DOHERTY said he received phone calls of support from firefighters in Billings, Missoula, Bozeman, and Kalispell.

SENATOR DOHERTY also provided letters of testimony from retired firefighters (EXHIBIT 4).

Proponents' Testimony:

Richard Seton, Montana State Fireman's Association, stated his organization supports the intent of SB 363, but he would defer a final position until the fiscal note has been made available.

Opponents' Testimony: None

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

SENATOR FOSTER questioned how SB 363 is tied into HB 268. SENATOR DOHERTY replied SB 363 would be in addition to HB 268 adjustments.

Closing by Sponsor:

SENATOR DOHERTY apologized for not having a fiscal note available. He said he believes there is a need for an increase in the benefits to bring them to an adequate level.

SENATOR DOHERTY said he also supports bringing all retirement bills together to determine the impact of the various pieces of legislation.

HEARING ON HJR 15

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM WISEMAN, House District 27, Great Falls, opened the hearing on HJR 15, dealing with base closure and realignment. The Base Closure and Realignment Committee will announce their final round of base closures March 1, 1995. Individuals felt it was important to deliver a resolution from the Montana legislature delineating Montana's position on Malmstrom Air Force Base. Malmstrom provides \$200,000,000 to the economy of Great Falls.

Proponents' Testimony:

Jim Jacobson, Administrator, Montana Veteran's Affairs Division, expressed support for Malmstrom Air Force Base and the services currently provided through the base to veterans in Montana.

SENATOR KEN MESAROS asked to be on record in support of HJR 15.

SENATOR BOB PIPINICH asked to be on record in support of HJR 15.

SENATOR DON HARGROVE asked to be on record in support of HJR 15.

SENATOR MIKE FOSTER asked to be on record in support of HJR 15.

Opponents' Testimony: None

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

SENATOR BROOKE asked Representative Wiseman if the Base Closure and Alignment Committee had specific criterion it was utilizing in making decisions on base closures. REPRESENTATIVE WISEMAN said the Committee is looking at all branches of the service and has made several previous lists based on what is needed and the cost. One of the issues important to Malmstrom is the number of missiles needed to balance Russia's missiles as controlled by the SALT negotiations.

SENATOR BROOKE asked Representative Wiseman if he believed that other states would have resolutions such as HJR 15 to protect their bases. REPRESENTATIVE WISEMAN said not only have do other states have such resolutions, they have also offered economic incentives to the Department of Defense to leave their bases open.

SENATOR BROOKE asked Jim Jacobson if base closure decisions considered the impact to veterans. **Mr. Jacobson** stated the primary points considered are the base's mission and the

financial bottom line. **SENATOR BROOKE** asked Jim Jacobson for clarification that the support structure provided by a base to veterans is one of the considerations impacting base closure decisions. **Mr. Jacobson** said that it may be a consideration but not above more important considerations such as the mission and economic impact. **SENATOR BROOKE** asked for further clarification on the main reason for requesting that Malmstrom remain open. **Mr. Jacobson** said he supports all of the reasons stated in HJR 15 including the impact to the veterans.

SENATOR PIPINICH commented on the need to maintain U.S. missiles.

SENATOR HARGROVE commented on the issues taken into consideration for base operations, i.e., base relations, amount of facilities in a state, strategic reasons and threat.

Closing by Sponsor:

REPRESENTATIVE WISEMAN asked the Committee to consider the importance of Malmstrom Air Force base to the Great Falls area.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJR 15

Motion: SENATOR MESAROS moved that HJR 15 BE CONCURRED IN.

<u>Discussion</u>: SENATOR BROOKE stated she would vote against the resolution because she felt that unless the U.S. government took a serious look at the defense budget, the U.S. would not be able to get out of the current deficit situation.

SENATOR FOSTER replied that Montana should stand behind Malmstrom Air force Base, because by not making a statement, Montana could be perceived as not being concerned about Malmstrom.

SENATOR MESAROS added that other states actively support the bases in their states and it is appropriate for Montana to do so.

SENATOR PIPINICH wanted to go on record for Missoula veterans as supporting Malmstrom.

SENATOR HARGROVE stated the need to support Malmstrom now and in the future should the role and mission of the Base change.

<u>Vote</u>: The MOTION CARRIED 7-1 on oral vote with SENATOR BROOKE voting no. SENATOR MESAROS will carry the bill on the Senate floor.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Counter: 54.6}

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 337

Motion: SENATOR HARGROVE moved TO ACCEPT AMENDMENTS TO SB 337.

<u>Discussion</u>: SENATOR FOSTER stated the amendments would turn SB 337 into a housekeeping measure and would not be worth this Committee's time. He asked this question to be addressed by Debra Fulton. Debra Fulton stated the legislation began as a housekeeping measure for leasing and maintenance, but as the bill was developed, two departments were experiencing difficulties with the purchases of existing facilities. The Department's concerns were incorporated into the bill language.

SENATOR FOSTER continued by asking Debra Fulton why the Department wanted to "kill" its own bill. Ms. Fulton replied that the Department felt it would not be able to pass the legislation with the leasing and maintenance changes.

SENATOR BROOKE asked for clarification on the purchase of Rivendell, i.e., if SB 337 is amended, would the purchase be delayed. **Debra Fulton** replied that it would be.

<u>Vote</u>: The MOTION FAILED 4-3 on roll call vote. (Senator Cole was not present during this roll call vote, but the motion would fail with or without his vote.)

Motion: SENATOR MESAROS moved that SB 337 DO PASS.

<u>Substitute Motion/Vote:</u> <u>SENATOR PIPINICH</u> made a <u>SUBSTITUTE</u> <u>MOTION</u> that <u>SB 337 BE TABLED</u>. The <u>SUBSTITUTE MOTION FAILED 4-3</u> on roll call vote. (<u>Senator Cole</u> was not present during this roll call vote, but the motion would fail with or without his vote.)

<u>Vote:</u> The MOTION THAT SB 337 DO PASS CARRIED 5-3 on roll call vote. (Senator Cole was not present during this roll call vote, but 02/16/95 at 3:00 PM he notified the secretary that his vote is YES.)

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 98

(EXHIBIT 5), a letter from John Uschold, Deputy Director, Federal Voting Assistance Program, was accepted for the record on SB 98, dealing with the consideration of an August or September primary.

Motion: SENATOR FOSTER MOVED SB 98 DO PASS.
SENATOR FOSTER moved TO ACCEPT AMENDMENTS TO SB 98.

David Niss distributed amendments to SB 98 (EXHIBIT 6).

<u>Discussion</u>: SENATOR FOSTER said SB 98 contains a number of items, and the amendments fine-tune each of the items: He asked David Niss to explain the intent of the amendments. Mr. Niss described that the amendments address the current laws on voter registration, running for a second term, requirements related to the date change of a primary, misrepresentation of voting records, and limitations on contributions. SENATOR FOSTER interjected clarifications regarding jury selection lists, primary dates, dual-party primary technical issues, and coordination with SB 30.

CHAIRMAN HARDING asked Joe Kerwin if there is proposed legislation to eliminate "rotation" (regarding a dual-party primary). Mr. Kerwin said Representative Tropila had introduced a bill in the House which was voted down on second reading.

SENATOR HARGROVE said he has several problems with the primary elections such as having all the years' elections within two months of each other (SB 293 also address various election issues) and the impact it would have on counties.

SENATOR HARGROVE said he is also concerned about the cost to counties. He also believes that one problem with the idea of a later primary election is that it would extend the campaign period for the primary.

Mr. Niss continued his explanation of the amendments stating that new section 15 would be substituted for the amendment on page 4 of the introduced bill. He said this section was requested by the Commissioner of Political Practices, and it basically creates a "civil" offense that is more easily prosecuted. SENATOR FOSTER stated this is an extremely important part of the bill in reducing the burden of proof in cases of violation.

Mr. Niss said section 16 addresses campaign contribution limitations as related to I118. He said the aggregate limitations would be changed to apply to both the primary and general election rather than to each election separately if there is a contested primary. SENATOR FOSTER said this language would eliminate the need for additional FTE's as requested by the Commissioner of Political Practices to handle I118.

SENATOR HARGROVE said he would like to add to the amendments to delete section 4 of the bill. CHAIRMAN HARDING said that would need to be a separate motion on the bill after the proposed amendments have been voted upon.

SENATOR MESAROS asked for clarification that the amendments do not pertain to changing of the primary date. SENATOR FOSTER said that has not been done.

SENATOR BROOKE said she is concerned regarding the language in section 8 of the amendments "As soon as possible," and asked if it should perhaps be replaced with language indicating a specific date for the certification to be completed. SENATOR FOSTER said this language allows the Secretary of State the flexibility to develop the most efficient manner to handle the changes.

SENATOR WELDON said he is not sure if the parts of SB 98 that he likes will outweigh the parts he does not like. He said he is pleased that the jury duty issue has been addressed.

SENATOR WELDON asked Senator Foster to clarify section 16.

SENATOR FOSTER said section 16 addresses concerns from Commissioner Argenbright about administratively handling the requirements of I118.

SENATOR WELDON clarified that a candidate can receive \$100 in the primary, regardless of whether it's a contested primary, and \$100 in the general, so the aggregate would be \$200. SENATOR FOSTER said that is true.

SENATOR WELDON asked if the requirement for ballot rotation still exists. SENATOR FOSTER said he understands the mechanical problems with ballot rotation. He is willing to listen to ideas on that. SENATOR WELDON said there are also many problems logistically and politically with a late primary, and he asked if SB 98 removes the requirement of casting a party ballot in the primary. SENATOR FOSTER said an elector will vote for one candidate, regardless of the party for a particular office.

SENATOR MESAROS commented that after the amendments are dealt with, Senator Hargrove's concerns could be addressed.

<u>Vote:</u> The MOTION TO ACCEPT AMENDMENTS TO SB 98 CARRIED 5-1 on oral vote with SENATOR BROOKE voting NO, and Senators Cole and Pipinich not present.

Motion: SENATOR HARGROVE moved TO STRIKE SECTION 4 OF SB 98.

<u>Discussion:</u> SENATOR FOSTER stated he was addressing citizens' concerns with the length and expense of political campaigns between the primary and general elections. Filing dates automatically change with the change in the election dates.

SENATOR MESAROS said he supports Senator Hargrove's motion to strike section 4. He believes the existing dates work well.

SENATOR FOSTER commented that section 16 of the amendments that were just voted on and passed is tied to changing the primary date and deals with the pressure created at the Commissioner's office in handling provision of I118.

SENATOR HARGROVE asked Senator Foster if filing dates are addressed. SENATOR FOSTER said if the primary date changes, the date for filing for an office follows automatically.

SENATOR WELDON stated he has two arguments in favor of the motion, one is the letter to Joe Kerwin - Exhibit 5, especially concerning absentee voting. Secondly, he believes changing the date of the primary to September will result in fewer people voting for presidential primary candidates.

<u>Vote:</u> The MOTION CARRIED 5-1 on oral vote with SENATOR FOSTER voting NO and Senators Cole and Pipinich not present.

Motion/Vote: SENATOR WELDON moved TO STRIKE SECTION 5 OF SB 98 AND ANY RELATED ITEMS IN THE BILL OR AMENDMENTS.

<u>Discussion:</u> SENATOR WELDON expressed concern with moving from the singularity of the political party elections and expenses involved in modifying the current electronic process utilized for elections.

SENATOR BROOKE voiced support for section 5, stating it would allow individuals to vote for the best person.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Counter: 7.}

SENATOR BROOKE continued her comments regarding the purpose for having a primary election is to have certain candidates to rise above others to offer electors the best choice.

SENATOR MESAROS said he does not interpret this as an erosion of the two-party system. He agreed that Senator Weldon's comments on the cost as an unknown factor should be considered.

SENATOR WELDON gave an example of how a party vote could be manipulated in the primary by allowing people to cross the partline boundary. He believes this is one more step to eroding the political party system.

<u>Vote</u>: The MOTION TIED 3-3 on roll call vote with Senators Cole and Pipinich not present, and ACTION ON SB 98 WAS DEFERRED TO A LATER DATE.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 A.M.

02/16/95 at 3:00 PM, Senator Cole notified the Secretary that his vote should be counted as follows:

SB 337 DO PASS

Aye

02/17/95 at 9:20 AM, Senator Pipinich notified the Secretary that his vote should be counted as follows:

SB 98 STRIKE SECTION 5 Aye

02/17/95 at 10:00 AM, Senator Cole notified the Secretary that his vote should be counted as follows:

SB 98 STRIKE SECTION 5 Aye

ETHEL M. HARDING, Chairman

GAIL MOSER, Secretary

GAYLE CARPENTER, Transcriber

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MONTANA SENATE 1995 LEGISLATURE STATE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL

The 02-16-98

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MIKE FOSTER	/		
DON HARGROVE	V.		
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SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Page 1 of 1 February 16, 1995

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on State Administration having had under consideration HJR 15 (third reading copy -- blue), respectfully report that HJR 15 be concurred in.

Signed: Mandeng Senator Ethel M. Harding, Chair

Sec. of Senate

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SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Page 1 of 1 February 16, 1995

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on State Administration having had under consideration SB 337 (first reading copy -- white), respectfully report that SB 337 do pass.

Signed

Senator Ethel M. Harding, Chair

Amd. Coord.

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SENATE STATE ADMIN.

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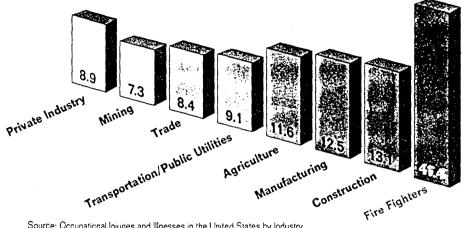
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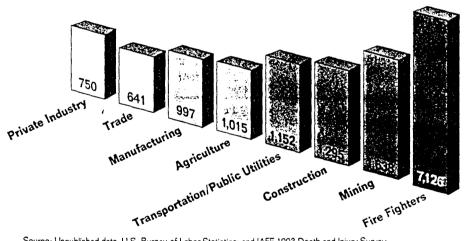
SB357

Number of Job Related Injuries/ Illnesses per 100 Workers



Source: Occupational Injuries and Illnesses in the United States by Industry, 1992, Summary 94-3, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; and IAFF 1993 Death and Injury Survey.

Lost Work Hours* from Job Related Injuries/Illnesses per 100 Workers



Source: Unpublished data, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; and IAFF 1993 Death and Injury Survey.

*For fire fighters, data is based on number of work shifts lost multiplied by the length of shift worked by each responding department. For all other industries, lost work hours are derived by multiplying the number of lost workdays reported by BLS by 8 hours.

16 FEB 1995

DEAN RIGGIN, MSFA

SENATE STATE ADMIN.

EXHIBIT NO.

DATE

SB357

S.B. 357
FURS Pension Benefit Revision

The role of the modern professional firefighter is a unique and challenging one, requiring far greater knowledge, training and commitment than needed in the past. This in turn asks much more of the men and women who perform this job, both in terms of the physical demands and the emotional stresses placed upon them over their careers in the performance of their duties. The reasons for this are many, but four prominently stand out.

First, firefighting itself has become more difficult. An especially significant and growing danger is the widespread use of synthetic materials in newer building construction, which creates fire environments far more hazardous than those known in the past. In addition, despite constant urban growth, local government cutbacks have led to reduced fire department manning levels, leaving fewer personnel to protect many more buildings and people. This in turn greatly increases the risk of personal injury to firefighters.

Second, fire departments must deal with an ever-growing number of hazardous substances which move through our cities and towns every day, or lie in storage throughout the state. Thousands of such substances already exist, and the number of new ones has increased almost geometrically in recent years. Since hazardous material incidents involving these substances will certainly occur, firefighters must learn, through constant training, the correct incident response for each of them.

Third, and most significant, the role of fire departments in providing emergency medical services to their communities has

grown enormously in the past decade. Nearly 80% of fire department responses in Montana cities are now emergency medical in nature, numbering over twelve thousand responses each year, and as a result three out of four Montana professional firefighters have also become emergency medical technicians. If you ask any firefighter with twenty years or more of service what the greatest difference is between their job today and the job when they were hired, they will tell you. "All the medical calls we go on now." And if you ask any firefighter what part of their job is the most demanding and stressful, their reply will be the same: "All the medical calls we go on now."

Fourth, recognizing these increased demands being placed upon individual firefighters and wishing to minimize time lost to sickness and injury, municipalities are justifiably requiring ever higher physical and mental standards of personnel within fire departments. This, of course, places a premium on fitness and youth, and often means changes in lifestyle for firefighters to meet the goals.

As all these reasons indicate, changes in the firefighting profession over recent decades have served to heighten rather than lessen the physical and mental stresses facing firefighters and they also emphasize the need for younger members within fire departments. This is clearly not a job to be done by aging men. It is equally clear that it would be beneficial to have a retirement structure in place which would encourage retirement at an earlier age and thereby reap the benefit of bringing in more youthful employees. The other public safety organizations within

the state, police, highway patrol, and sheriffs, have recognized this fact and have gotten or are acquiring provisions within their retirement systems to allow retirement after 20 years of service. Every argument advanced by these organizations to support the need foe allowing earlier retirement applies equally, if not more so, to the profession of firefighting.

In addition, one more point must be made. Montana's firefighters, police officers, and highway patrol officers are not covered by the Social Security Act, and therefore whose members upon retirement do not receive social security benefits. In the police and highway patrol retirement systems, it has been realized that to compensate for the lack of the social security benefits and still allow for the possibility of retirement at a reasonably youthful age, there should be an increase in the benefit allowance per year of service past 20 years, and both systems have been changed to allow this increase. The firefighters' system does not at present enjoy this benefit, yet comparison with these other two similar systems will show that it is certainly justified.

Therefore, there are two major provisions to the bill we are proposing today. First, the bill will allow retirement for firefighters after 20 years of service. Second, it will provide an increased benefit per year of service, to 2% per year of service after 20 years, for those members who now accrue only 1% of salary for each year of service after 20 years, and remove the 60% accrual limit for all members. It is our firm belief that both provisions will encourage retirement and promote the hiring of younger firefighters, and with the proposed distribution of costs will

neither compromise the solvency of the firefighters' retirement system nor prove unreasonably costly to the taxpayers. The proposal ia as follows.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 357

on behalf of the DATE______
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT BOARDL NO.__

SENATE STATE ADMIN.

EXHIBIT NO. 3

DATE 62-6-95

PRO NO. 573-57

Presented by

Linda King, Administrator Public Employees' Retirement Division

On behalf of the Public Employees' Retirement Board which administers the Firefighters' Unified Retirement System, I am here to support SB 357. The bill, as drafted, addresses significant equity issues between the FURS and the other hazardous duty retirement systems in this state. Those equity issues are:

- -- Retirement eligibility at 20 years of service, regardless of age
- -- Elimination of the 60% maximum benefit limitation
- -- Increasing the benefit accrual rate for pre-1981 members after 20 years of service (from 1%/year to 2%/year).

Retirement Eligibility. In 1991 the Legislature removed the age 50 requirement for normal service retirement in the Municipal Police Officers' Retirement System. That requirement had been imposed back in 1977 when the statewide system was formed. The reason for imposing the age 50 eligibility requirement was simply to reduce the cost of retirement benefits in that system. Similarly, when the Highway Patrol Officers', Sheriffs', and Firefighters' systems were formed, similar age constraints were enacted. In 1993, the Legislature removed the age 50 eligibility requirement in the Highway Patrol System.

Two bills have been introduced in the current session to equalize the retirement eligibility criteria in the remaining two hazardous duty retirement systems -- the Sheriffs' bill (HB 306 which has already passed the House and will be heard by this committee in the near future) and the Firefighters' bill which you are considering at present.

Elimination of 60% maximum benefit limitation. This limitation was also removed by previous legislatures from the Police and Highway Patrol Systems. In the interest of equity, the limitation should also be removed from the remaining hazardous duty retirement systems.

Increasing benefit accrual rates after 20 years of service. Currently, FURS members hired prior to 7/1/81 (when this unified system was enacted) receive 2.5% of final compensation for each year of service up to 20 years. After 20 years, their benefit accrual rate currently drops to 1% of final salary per year of service. (Post 7/1/81 hires receive 2% per year for all years of service.) In 1991 and 1993, the Legislature removed benefit accrual reductions from the Police and Highway Patrol Systems. In the interest of equity, this session should also favorably consider this proposal which would increase the benefit accrual after 20 years -- not to the full 2.5%, but to a more modest 2% per year of service.

When previous Legislatures removed these restrictions from first the Police and then the Highway Patrol systems, it was explained that these equity issues would be created and that the full impact of those decisions would not be felt until all hazardous duty systems were equalized. This session, those equalization bills have arrived.

The Public Employees' Retirement Board requests your favorable consideration of this bill. It is actuarially funded and it will address important equity issues between the retirement systems.

FACSTHILE TRANSMISSION:

FAX NO: 1-900-225-1600

EXHIBIT NO._

SENATE STATE ADMIN.

BILL NO:_

IO; Senata State Admin. Rm Name Senater Ethel Harding

Room 312

Telephone State Capitol

FROM: A & A TRANSPORT, Inc.

Name:

Fax: (406) '756-8603'

Comments: Senator Harding and Committee:

Please support SB 363, I am a retired Firefighter

who has not had a cost of living adjustment to my pension

for the past 7 years. There doesn't appear to be any in

sight. I strongly urge your support of this bill, yet

respect your hard decisions what ever way you vote.

Thanks in advance.

::

. Beverly Larson

M. Duane Larson

lilí 8th ave, East

Kalispell, MT. 59901

406-755-6376

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THY TIME TRANSPORTING:	
FAX NO: 900-225-1600	
TO: MT State Capitol	Nama Chairperson Senator Ethel -
Senate State Administration Committee	Harding
Room 312	Telephone 406- 444-4800
FROM: A & A TRANSPORT, Inc.	Name: Kalispell Chapter of Montana
Fax: (406) 756-8603	State Firemans Association
Comments: Dear Senator Harding and	Committee:
The 22 members of the Kalispe	ll Retired Firefighters would
greatly appreciate your suppo	ort of SB 363. Our living costs
are continuing upward and gre	eatly need your support.
A A F F 416 6 HANT	Sincerely,
Membershi	o of the Kalispell Retired Firefiq

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FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1155

SENATE STATE ADMIN.

EXHIBIT NO.

January 19, 199 BILL NO.

Mr. Joe Kerwin Bureau Chief of Elections Office of the Secretary of State State Capitol PO Box 202801

Dear Mr. Kerwin:

Helena, Montana 59620

It is our understanding that Montana may be considering an August or September primary. A primary in August or September may contribute to a delay in mailing of ballots for the general election due to the many administrative procedures and the variable factors that are involved in the election process. Military and overseas citizens voting absentee need approximately 45 days for ballet transit time in order to receive, vote and return the ballet in time to be counted.

There are nine states which hold August primary elections and 18 in September. In the past, we have taken legal action against 15 of these states to ensure appropriate transit time. Due to the late mailing of ballots in the 1992 Presidential election, we brought legal action against six states to ensure the military and overseas citizens were not disenfranchised because of insufficient absentee ballot transit time.

We bring this to your attention because our experience has been that states with primaries in August and September are more likely to have unavoidable problems, which could disenfranchise military and overseas citizens voting absentee. Any election schedule that may cause delays in mailing absentee ballots for the general election should be considered along with other alternatives, such as counting absentee ballots received after the election or electronic transmission of absentee ballots to reduce transit times.

If you have any questions, or if we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

ohn Uschold Deputy Director

Amendments to Senate Bill No. 98 First Reading Copy

SENAIL STATE GOMIN.

EXHIBIT NO. 6

DATE 02-45

Requested by Sen. Foster
For the Committee on State Administration BILL NO.

5B98

Prepared by David S. Niss February 15, 1995

1. Title, line 7. Following: "UNLESS"

Insert: "THE CANDIDATE IS A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATURE RUNNING FOR REELECTION TO THE MEMBER'S SAME SEAT OR"

2. Title, lines 8 and 9.

Strike: "SUBSTITUTING" on line 8 through "POOLS; " on line 9

3. Title, line 11.

Following: "CREATING THE"

Insert: "CIVIL"

4. Title, lines 11 AND 12.

Strike: "RAISING" on line 11 through "ELECTION" on line 12
Insert: "POLITICAL LIBEL; PROVIDING THAT AGGREGATE LIMITS ON
CONTRIBUTIONS APPLY TO AN ELECTION CYCLE OF A PRIMARY AND A
GENERAL ELECTION"

5. Title, line 13.

Following: "13-1-107,"

Insert: "13-10-209,"

Following: "13-10-301,"

Insert: "13-10-311, 13-12-201, 13-12-205,"

Following: "13-13-214,"

Insert: "13-13-221, 13-13-241, 13-15-205, 13-17-103,"

Strike: "13-35-234" Insert: "13-37-216"

6. Page 2, lines 2 and 3.

Strike: "licensed drivers in the county who are 18 years of age or older"

Insert: "registered electors"

7. Page 2, line 4.

Following: "chapter."

Insert: "However, the officers may not include in the list the name of a person who has served as a juror within the previous 5 years."

8. Page 2, line 14.

Following: "term."

Insert: "This section does not prevent a member of the legislature from becoming a candidate for reelection to the member's same seat in the legislature."

9. Page 2.

Following: line 27

Insert: "Section 5. Section 13-10-209, MCA, is amended to read: "13-10-209. Arrangement of ballots. (1) (a) Ballots for a primary election shall must be arranged and printed in the same manner and number as provided in chapter 12 for general election ballots, except there shall be separate ballots for each office, there must be sections listing the candidates for each political party entitled to participate. The name of the political party shall must be printed at the top of the separate ballot section for that party and need not be printed opposite each candidate's name.

- (b) Nonpartisan offices and ballot issues may be printed on separate ballots or may appear on the same ballot as partisan offices if \div
- (i) each section is clearly identified as separate; and (ii) such nonpartisan offices and ballot issues appear on each party's ballot.
- (2) It is not necessary to print a primary ballot for a political party which that does not have candidates for more than half of the offices on the ballot in even-year elections if no more than one candidate files for nomination by that party for any of the offices on the ballot. The secretary of state shall certify that no a primary election is not necessary for that party if such is the case and shall certify or instruct the election administrator to certify the names of the candidates for that party for the general election ballot only.
- (3) The separate ballots for each party shall be the same size and color. The stubs of each set of party ballots shall bear the same number. If printed as a separate ballot, the nonpartisan ballot shall may be a different size or color than the party ballots, but the stubs shall must be numbered in the same order as the party ballots.
- (4) If a ballot issue is to be voted on at a primary election, it may be placed on the nonpartisan ballot or a separate ballot. A separate ballot may be a different size and color than the other ballots in the election, but the stubs shall must be numbered in the same order.
- (5) Each elector shall receive a set of party ballots partisan ballot and a nonpartisan and a ballot issue ballot if such ballots are printed."

{Internal References to 13-10-209:

x13-10-208 x13-10-208 x13-12-203

Renumber: subsequent sections

10. Page 3, line 9.

Strike: "marked and unmarked"

Strike: "separately"

Strike: ","

11. Page 3, line 10.

Strike: "identifying them as marked and unmarked"

12. Page 3.

EXHIBIT 6

DATE 2-16-95

5B 98

Following: line 15

Insert: "Section 7. Section 13-10-311, MCA, is amended to read:

- "13-10-311. Election judges' duties upon closing of polls.
 (1) The election judges at the primary election shall separate the ballots for each political party and count each party's ballots separately.
- (2) They shall reconcile the total number of party ballots and the separate total number of other ballots used at the election with the number of electors voting. Any discrepancies in the reconciliations shall must be handled as provided in 13-15-201(3).
- $\frac{(3)}{(2)}$ Each party's candidates shall be listed separately in the tally books.
- (4)(3) The voted ballots of each party shall must be bundled separately for return to the election administrator. The unvoted ballots deposited in the stub box shall be bundled with the stubs."

{Internal References to 13-10-311: None.}

- Section 8. Section 13-12-201, MCA, is amended to read:
 "13-12-201. Secretary of state to certify ballot. (1)
 Seventy five days or more before an election As soon as possible following the completion of the canvas of the primary election, except as provided in 13-10-208, the secretary of state shall certify to the election administrators the name and party or other designation of each candidate entitled to appear on the ballot and the ballot issues as shown in the official records of the secretary of state's office, which must include the notification specified in 13-37-126.
- (2) The election administrator shall certify the name and party or other designation of each candidate entitled to appear on the ballot and the ballot issues as shown in the official records of the election administrator's office, which must include the notification specified in 13-37-126, and shall have the official ballots printed.
- (3) If a candidate for the legislature is no longer eligible under Article V, section 4, of the Montana constitution to seek the office for which the candidate has filed because the candidate has changed residence, the secretary of state shall notify the candidate that the candidate is required to withdraw as provided in 13-10-325."
 {Internal References to 13-12-201: None.}

Section 9. Section 13-12-205, MCA, is amended to read: "13-12-205. Arrangement of names -- rotation on ballot. (1) The candidates' names shall must be arranged alphabetically on the ballot according to surnames under the title of the respective offices.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3), if two or more individuals are candidates for nomination or election to the same office, the election administrator shall divide the ballot forms into sets equal in number to the greatest number of candidates for any office. The candidates for nomination to an

office by each political party shall <u>must</u> be considered separately in determining the number of sets necessary for a primary election.

- (b) The election administrator shall begin with a form arranged alphabetically and rotate so that each candidate's name will be at the top of the list for each office on substantially an equal number of ballots. If it is not numerically possible to place each candidate's name at the top of the list, the names shall must be rotated in groups so that each candidate's name is as near the top of the list as possible on substantially an equal number of ballots.
- (c) If the county contains more than one legislative district, the election administrator may rotate each candidate's name so that it will be at or near the top of the list for each office on substantially an equal number of ballots in each house district.
- (d) For purposes of rotation, the offices of president and vice president and of governor and lieutenant governor shall must be considered as a group.
- (e) No more More than one of the sets may not be used in printing the ballot for use in any one precinct, and all ballots furnished for use in any precinct must be identical.
- (f) For purposes of the primary ballots, name rotation must be done within each section for a political party for each office, with the sections arranged in alphabetical order under the political party's name.
- (3) In a precinct where voting devices are used, the election administrator need not rotate candidates' names as provided in subsection (2) on paper ballots required under 13-17-305; however, if more than 5% of the electors voting in the precinct in the last preceding general election voted using paper ballots, the election administrator shall rotate candidates' names on the paper ballots. If the candidates' names are not rotated, the election administrator shall determine by lot the arrangement of the names on the paper ballot.""

 {Internal References to 13-12-205: x76-15-303}

Renumber: subsequent sections

13. Page 3, line 28.

Strike: "have printed across the face"

Strike: "the information and graphics and be of"

14. Page 3, line 29. Strike: "a color" Following: "as may be" Insert: "be in a form" Following: "state" Insert: "that is"

15. Page 4, lines 9 through 21.. Strike: section 7 in its entirety

Insert: "Section 11. Section 13-13-221, MCA, is amended to read: "13-13-221. Marking and affirming ballot. (1) After the

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elector marks his the ballots, he the elector shall fold them so that the vote is concealed and so that the official stamp is visible. The stubs shall must be left attached and the ballots should be folded so that the stubs can be detached without revealing the vote.

- (2) The elector shall place the ballots in the envelope addressed to the election administrator and seal it securely. If the ballots are for a primary election, the party ballot or ballots not voted shall be placed in the envelope marked for that purpose and enclosed in the outer envelope with the voted ballots.
- (3) The elector shall complete and sign the affirmation on the envelope.
- (4) The elector shall mail the envelope, postage prepaid, or deliver it to the election administrator or the special absentee election board."

 {Internal References to 13-13-221: x13-13-229}

Section 12. Section 13-13-241, MCA, is amended to read: "13-13-241. Examination of absentee ballot envelopes and affirmations while polls open -- deposit of absentee and unvoted ballots. (1) While the polls are open, the election judges may compare the signature of the elector on the absentee ballot request and affirmation. If they find that the signatures correspond, that the affirmation is sufficient, and that the absentee elector is qualified, they may open the absentee ballot envelope.

- (2) If the absentee ballot does not meet the requirements specified in subsection (1), it must be rejected. The election judges, without opening the absentee ballot envelope, shall mark across it the reason for rejection and a majority of the judges shall sign their initials. Unopened rejected absentee ballot envelopes must be handled in the same manner as provided for rejected ballots in 13-13-243.
- (3) After opening the absentee envelope and without unfolding the ballots or permitting them to be examined, the election judges shall ascertain whether the stubs are attached or enclosed and whether the numbers correspond to the numbers in the certificate of the election administrator. If so, they shall detach the stubs and deposit the stubs and ballots in the proper ballot boxes. In a primary election, the unvoted ballots must be deposited in the unvoted ballot box without being removed from their enclosure envelope.
- (4) If upon opening the absentee ballot envelope it is found that the number does not correspond to the number on the certificate of the election administrator, the ballot must be rejected. The reason for rejection must be marked on the back of the ballot or ballots, and the statement must be initialed by a majority of the election judges."

{Internal References to 13-13-241:

x13-15-104}

Section 13. Section 13-15-205, MCA, is amended to read:
"13-15-205. Items to be delivered to election administrator
by election judges -- disposition of other items. (1) Before they
adjourn, the election judges shall enclose in a strong envelope
or package, securely fastened:

- (a) the precinct register;
- (b) the list of individuals challenged;
- (c) the pollbook;
- (d) both of the tally sheets.
- (2) The election judges shall enclose in a separate package or envelope, securely sealed, all unused ballots with the numbered stubs attached.
- (3) The election judges shall enclose in a separate package or envelope, securely sealed, all ballots voted, including those not counted or allowed, and detached stubs from all counted or rejected absentee ballots. This envelope shall must be endorsed on the outside "ballots voted". At the primary election the unvoted party ballots shall be enclosed in a separate package or envelope, securely sealed, and marked on the outside "unvoted ballots".
- (4) Each election judge shall write his the judge's name across all seals.
- (5) The return form provided for in 13-15-101 shall must be returned with the items provided for in this section but may not be sealed in any of the packages.
- (6) The envelopes or packages required by this section shall must be delivered to the election administrator by the chief election judge or another judge appointed by the chief judge in the manner ordered by the election administrator.
- (7) The election administrator shall instruct the chief election judge, in writing on the proper disposition of all other election materials and supplies."
 {Internal References to 13-15-205: None.}

Section 14. Section 13-17-103, MCA, is amended to read: "13-17-103. Required specifications for equipment. A voting machine or device may not be approved unless:

- (1) an elector can vote in secrecy;
- (2) an elector is prevented from voting for any candidate or upon any ballot issue more than once and is also prevented from voting on any office or ballot issue for which he the elector is not entitled to vote;
- (3) an elector can secretly select the party for which he wishes to vote in a primary election and the machine or device will count only votes for the candidates of that party by the elector in the primary election;
- (4) an elector can vote a split ticket in a <u>primary or</u> general election if he the elector desires;
 - (5) every valid vote cast is registered and recorded;
- (6) the machine or device is constructed so that it cannot be tampered with for a fraudulent purpose and is also constructed so that during the progress of the voting no individual can see or know the number of votes registered for any candidate or on any ballot issue;

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(7) it allows write-in voting; and

. (8) a guarantee to provide training and assistance to election officials is included in each contract for purchase of the machine or device.""
{Internal References to 13-17-103: None.}

NEW SECTION. Section 15. Misrepresentation of voting record -- political civil libel. (1) It is unlawful for a person to willfully or negligently make or publish a false statement about a candidate's public voting record or to make or publish a false statement that reflects unfavorably upon a candidate's character or morality.

- (2) It is unlawful for a person to willfully or negligently provide false information to a candidate concerning another candidate's public voting record when the person knows or should know that the information will be made public during the course of a campaign.
- (3) For the purposes of this section, the public voting record of a candidate who was previously a member of the Montana legislature includes a vote of that candidate recorded in committee minutes or in journals of the senate or the house of representatives of the Montana legislature. Failure of a person to verify a public voting record is evidence of the person's willful or negligent conduct if the statement made by the person or the information provided to the candidate is false.
- (4) A person violating subsection (1) or (2) is liable in a civil action brought by the commissioner or county attorney pursuant to 13-37-124 for an amount up to \$1,000. An action pursuant to this section is subject to the provisions of 13-37-129 and 13-37-130.

Section 16. Section 13-37-216, MCA, is amended to read:

- "13-37-216. Limitations on contributions. (1) (a) Aggregate contributions for each election in a campaign by a political committee or by an individual, other than the candidate, to a candidate are limited as follows:
- (i) for candidates filed jointly for the office of governor and lieutenant governor, not to exceed \$400 \$800;
- (ii) for a candidate to be elected for state office in a statewide election, other than the candidates for governor and lieutenant governor, not to exceed \$200 \$400;
- (iii) for a candidate for any other public office, not to exceed $$\frac{100}{200}$.
- (b) A contribution to a candidate includes contributions made to the candidate's committee and to any political committee organized on the candidate's behalf.
- (2) (a) A political committee that is not independent of the candidate is considered to be organized on the candidate's behalf. For the purposes of this section, an independent committee means a committee which is not specifically organized on behalf of a particular candidate or which is not controlled either directly or indirectly by a candidate or candidate's committee and which does not act jointly with a candidate or

candidate's committee in conjunction with the making of expenditures or accepting contributions.

- (b) A leadership political committee maintained by a political officeholder is considered to be organized on the political officeholder's behalf.
- (3) All political committees except those of political party organizations are subject to the provisions of subsections (1) and (2). For purposes of this subsection, "political party organization" means any political organization that was represented on the official ballot at the most recent gubernatorial election. Political party organizations may form political committees that are subject to the following aggregate limitations from all political party committees:
- (a) for candidates filed jointly for the offices of governor and lieutenant governor, not to exceed \$15,000 \$30,000;
- (b) for a candidate to be elected for state office in a statewide election, other than the candidates for governor and lieutenant governor, not to exceed \$5,000 \$10,000;
- (c) for a candidate for public service commissioner, not to exceed \$2,000 \$4,000;
- (d) for a candidate for the state senate, not to exceed \$800 \$1,600;
- (e) for a candidate for any other public office, not to exceed \$500 \$1,000
- (4) A candidate may not accept any contributions in excess of the limits in this section.
- (5) For purposes of this section, "election" means the general election or a and primary election that involves two or more candidates for the same nomination. If there is not a contested primary, there is only one election to which the contribution limits apply. If there is a contested primary, then there are two elections to which the contribution limits apply. "
 {Internal References to 13-37-216: None.}

NEW SECTION. Section 17. {standard} Codification instruction. [Section 15] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 13, chapter 37, and the provisions of Title 13, chapter 37, apply to [section 15]."

DATE 19tus 02-16-95
SENATE COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION
BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: \$3357 /58363/4615
Exactan: 58337/5830 /51398

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Check One

Name	Representing	Bill No.	Support	Oppose
Tim BERGSTROM	BILLINGS FIRE DEPT SE	357	Χ	
Steve Conser	Great Falls Fire Dep SI	3 <i>3<</i> 7	X	
Kim Flatow for Linda Ling	Public Engs. Ret. Dw Mt. state Conneil	SB351	X	
Pat Clinch	MT. State Conneil	, 53357	X	
FRANK POTTEN.	GOFAT FRIL	B 357	×	
Richard Seddon	KALISSELL FIRE BIT	357	X	
W. James Kembel	City of Billings	357		У
John P. Paull	BUTTE FIRE DEPT	357	X	
Tim M CAnthy	Buttle fine Dept	357	人	
Vickson	MT State Fixemans Usson	357	X	
Pan Myen	GRADOT FALLS FIAR	357	X	
Jerry Williams	Mart. Police Protective Ussa.	357	X	
Jim JAcalse	MIVES AKADIV	HJR15	X	
DEAN RIGER	MINT. ST. FIREMON'S ALG	357	X	

VISITOR REGISTER

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY