

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE  
54th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE & SAFETY

Call to Order: By CHAIRMAN JIM BURNETT, on January 6, 1995, at  
1:08 PM.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. James H. "Jim" Burnett, Chairman (R)  
Sen. Steve Benedict, Vice Chairman (R)  
Sen. Larry L. Baer (R)  
Sen. Sharon Estrada (R)  
Sen. Arnie A. Mohl (R)  
Sen. Mike Sprague (R)  
Sen. Dorothy Eck (D)  
Sen. Eve Franklin (D)  
Sen. Terry Klampe (D)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Susan Fox, Legislative Council  
Karolyn Simpson, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and  
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing: SB 3  
Executive Action: None

HEARING ON SB 3

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Because SENATOR TOM KEATING, SD 5, Billings, was unable to attend the hearing on SB 3, SENATOR STEVE BENEDICT, SD 30, Hamilton, representing Senator Keating, made the opening statement. He stated that SB 3 is called "An act adding the Commissioner of Labor and Industry as a member of the interagency coordinating council for state prevention programs." All this bill does is add the Commissioner of Labor to the coordinating council, giving the council 11 members rather than 10.

Proponents' Testimony:

SENATOR DOROTHY ECK, SD 15, Bozeman, stated that this was her

bill when it was implemented 2 years ago and feels that it has been very effective. All of the people who are members of this commission are department directors and attend the meetings because of their interest. She said that it was recognized, at the time, that the Department of Labor should have been included because Labor plays a role in this council.

She explained the role of the council and why it was formed. There are a lot of state agencies with similar programs, with 3 or 4 agencies serving one child in a family, which is confusing. It's important to have the agencies working together at the local government. A couple of years before this bill was enacted, there was another bill that required a memorandum of agreement so that agencies would work together.

This program takes the work of a lot of agencies, and makes sure they work together at the local level to provide an array of services designed to fit the needs of each community. During their conferences, there is very good citizen participation from the agencies and the pool of non-profit corporations that work in the general area of prevention. She sees the work of this commission as offering real hope of cutting costs and providing the kinds of services we need for children and families.

The Department of Labor adds to the council, training agencies, job training programs, and youth employment. She thinks the Department of Labor is a good addition to this council.

**Hank Hudson, Chairman of the Inter-agency Coordinating Council for Prevention and Director of the Department of Family Services,** spoke in favor of this bill. The Inter-agency Coordinating Council is an effort to change the way the state behaves so that communities, when they work with the state of Montana, can receive assistance or resources and have a relationship that is not so complicated and broken up between departments, so they can do the work at the community level of providing services for safer families and communities without having to deal with so many RFT's or agencies, both federal and state.

In order to reach the desired outcomes, people need good jobs and need the skills for jobs. The Department of Labor, particularly the Job Training Partnership Act and other parts of the Department of Labor, are already working on similar programs and the ICC (Inter-agency Coordinating Council) and the programs would benefit from their membership and input to the council.

**Dennis Taylor, Deputy Director of the Department of Justice,** and representing Attorney General Mazurek, who is a member of the ICC said that Attorney General Mazurek supports the addition of the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to the council for all of the reasons already mentioned in preceding testimony.

Being able to pool resources of state government in a coordinated fashion, to be of assistance to local communities and individuals in these communities, is the goal of this group. There are resources in the Department of Labor and Industry that can augment the resources of the existing resources of the group. He agreed that it was an oversight when the council was created, that the Commissioner of Labor was not included. Dennis Taylor

said that attorney general Mazurek urged the passage of SB 3.

**Laura Eckanger, Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry**, stated that the Department of Labor representative has been attending and participating in the Inter-agency Coordinating Council meetings because there is a need for labor's input.

**Steve Yeakel, Executive Director of the Montana Council for Maternal and Child Health**, which is a coalition of hospitals and physicians organizations and community groups which focus on what's best for mothers and children in the state of Montana. He is in favor of the addition of the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to the ICC.

Opponents' Testimony:None

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

**SENATOR BAER**, asked if there were any financial ramifications by adding the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to the commission.

**Hank Hudson** replied that there were no additional expenses. The current expenses of the ICC are covered by agencies paying their own way.

**SENATOR KLAMPE** asked how the ICC can work to save the state money.


**Hank Hudson** replied that one of the ways that the state can and continue to save money, is that communities can develop one plan for prevention for the community. This single community plan will eliminate the need for duplicative community meetings. Communities want to meet once to develop a prevention programs for drug and alcohol addictions, AIDS, low birth weight babies, abuse and neglect. The ICC will assure that one of the state agencies with prevention monies won't insist that communities form a new group and a different plan and strategy. Because communities don't know who is receiving assistance, many times there is a duplication of services. The intent of the ICC is to eliminate duplication of services by different agencies, and give monies to the community to spend on prevention programs that are deemed necessary in the community, rather than the state dictating how money is to be spent, because that program or service may not be on a real need in the community.


Closing by Sponsor:

**SENATOR BENEDICT** thinks that the addition of the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to the Council will be beneficial to the council.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 1:35 PM

  
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SENATOR JIM BURNETT, Chairman

  
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KAROLYN SIMPSON, Secretary

JB/ks

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MONTANA SENATE  
1995 LEGISLATURE  
PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL

DATE 1/6/95

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
LARRY BAER	✓		
SHARON ESTRADA	✓		
ARNIE MOHL	✓		
MIKE SPRUGE	✓		
DOROTHY ECK	✓		
EVE FRANKLIN	✓		
TERRY KLAMPE	✓		
STEVE BENEDICT, VICE CHAIRMAN	✓		
JIM BURNETT, CHAIRMAN	✓		



SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

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January 11, 1995

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Safety having had under consideration SB 3 (first reading copy -- white), respectfully report that SB 3 do pass.

Signed:   
Senator Jim Burnett, Chair

  
 Amd. Coord.  
SA Sec. of Senate

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DATE 1/6/95

SENATE COMMITTEE ON Public Health

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: SB 3

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Check One

Name	Representing	Bill No.	Support	Oppose
LENNIS M. TAYLOR	JUSTICE / AG	SB 3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STEVE YEAKEL	MT Council for <sup>HEALTH</sup> MATERNAL & CHILD	SB 3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Laurie Ekanger	labor & Industry	SB 3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hank Hul	DFS	SB 3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VISITOR REGISTER

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY