

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 54th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Call to Order: By CHAIRMAN TOM BECK, on January 12, 1995, at
1:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Thomas A. "Tom" Beck, Chairman (R)
Sen. Ethel M. Harding, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Sharon Estrada (R)
Sen. Don Hargrove (R)
Sen. Dorothy Eck (D)
Sen. John "J.D." Lynch (D)
Sen. Jeff Weldon (D)

Members Excused: none

Members Absent: Sen. Delwyn Gage

Staff Present: Susan Fox, Legislative Council
Elaine Johnston, Committee Secretary

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

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing: SB 58
Executive Action: SB 58

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

HEARING ON SB 58

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SEN. GARY FORRESTER, SD 8, Billings, presented SB 58 by request
of the Yellowstone County Emergency Disaster Director.

Proponents' Testimony:

Jim Craft, Director of the Yellowstone County Emergency and
General Services, read his written testimony. (EXHIBIT 1). Mr.
Craft also suggested an amendment to SB 58 by re-inserting in
Section 1, 7-33-2311 lines 12 and 13 and add "or a copy of the
certificate" at the end. The reason for the amendment being that

it would allow the fire companies may report as it exists with the county requirements or if they did not want to do that they may report in the same manner as they report to the state.

Gordon Morris, Director, MT Association of Counties, agreed with Mr. Craft on the amendment and asked with consideration of the amendment the committee pass SB 58.

Opponents' Testimony: none

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

SEN. JEFF WELDON asked for clarification of how the SB 58 would read after the amendment. **Susan Fox** of the Legislative Council read how the bill will read after the amendment.

SEN. DOROTHY ECK asked if the reporting requirements in SB 58 will apply to other fire district organizations? **Jim Kraft** answered that SB 58 would apply to all fire organizations but not to professional paid firemen.

CHAIRMAN TOM BECK asked if the reason for putting lines 12 and 13 back in was for being able to know if companies are still active for retirement purposes? **Linda King, PERD**, replied that there are two separate requirements because some companies file with both county and state but there are some companies that do not meet the requirements of the volunteer fire laws. By saying that all companies would have to file with the county it would put additional requirements on some companies that now they do not have which was not the intent.

Closing by Sponsor:

SEN. FORRESTER urged the passage of SB 58 as it would help rural fire districts and ease some paperwork.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 58

Motion/Vote: **SEN. HARDING** MOVED to AMEND SB 58. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Motion/Vote : **SEN. HARGROVE** MOVED SB 58 DO PASS AS AMENDED. The MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

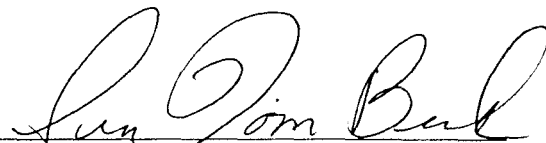
SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

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ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 1:22 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sen. Tom Beck", written over a horizontal line.

SEN. TOM BECK, Chairman

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Elaine Johnston", written over a horizontal line.

ELAINE JOHNSTON, Secretary

TB/ej

DATE 1-12-95

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SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Page 1 of 1
January 12, 1995

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Local Government having had under consideration SB 58 (first reading copy -- white), respectfully report that SB 58 be amended as follows and as so amended do pass.

Signed: 
Senator Tom Beck, Chair

That such amendments read:

1. Page 1, line 11.
Strike: "copy of the"

2. Page 1, line 13.
Following: "~~members~~"

Insert: "in writing, signed by the presiding officer and secretary, setting forth the date of organization, name, officers, and roll of active and honorary members or a copy of the certificate"

-END-



Amd. Coord.
Sec. of Senate

101409SC.SPV



Yellowstone County

JAMES L. KRAFT

DIRECTOR
EMERGENCY AND GENERAL SERVICES

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

EXHIBIT NO. 1

DATE 1-12-95

BILL NO. SB 58

1-12-95

(406) 256-2775
(406) 256-2736 Fax

P.O. BOX 35004
BILLINGS, MT 59107

: SB 58 - Proponent

H. FROM: Jim KRAFT, Administrative Fire Chief
Yellowstone County, Billings
Original Author of Amendment. 256-2775

B. Two reporting segments exist:

- (1) State - Chapt 17 of Title 19 - Volunteer Firefighter Compensation Act.
 - File with ~~Public~~ Employees Retirement Div.
 - Cert. of Eligibility - names & addresses of all members completing 30 hrs of training
 - Reason - receive pension benefits, \$25K disability benefits and a payment of \$50 yr to maintain group insurance.
- (2) County - Chapt 33 of Title 7 - Fire Protection
 - File with County Clerk
 - Roster of members, date of Organization, (active & honorary members)
 - Fire Chief also must provide 30hrs training

Both certificates must be filed by Sept 1 each year.

2. Historically in Yellowstone County - of the seven volunteer fire companies (or departments) only half have some consistency in reporting their membership thru the filing each year. It's a hit & miss. Some file with state and not the county and vice versa. Some Dept's have felt that by filing with the county that took care of the state filing reqmts.

We in govt shouldn't create undue burdens on local (statewide) volunteers. They're doing a great service for all of us and if we can ease their reporting reqmts, then we ought to do so. The reqmts in both Statutes are nearly identical, so lets make them identical by supporting SB 58. A filing with the State can be the same filing with the county. The Legislative Council also did some grammatical & clerical changes for clarity.

I urge you to favorably support SB 58 and make the lives of our volunteer firemen just a bit easier.

Thanks to the Committee for listening and thanks to Senator Forrester for sponsoring this legislation.

DATE 1-12-95

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: SB 58

< ■ > PLEASE PRINT < ■ >

Check One

Name	Representing	Bill No.	Support	Oppose
JAMES L. KRAFT	Yellowstone County	SB58	X	
Gordon Morris	MTA Co	58	X	
LINDA KING	FERD	58	Info.	

VISITOR REGISTER

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY