

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 54th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & AGING

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN DUANE GRIMES**, on January 25, 1995, at 3:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Duane Grimes, Chairman (R)
Rep. John C. Bohlinger, Vice Chairman (Majority) (R)
Rep. Carolyn M. Squires, Vice Chairman (Minority) (D)
Rep. Chris Ahner (R)
Rep. Ellen Bergman (R)
Rep. Bill Carey (D)
Rep. Dick Green (R)
Rep. Antoinette R. Hagener (D)
Rep. Deb Kottel (D)
Rep. Bonnie Martinez (R)
Rep. Brad Molnar (R)
Rep. Bruce T. Simon (R)
Rep. Liz Smith (R)
Rep. Susan L. Smith (R)
Rep. Loren L. Soft (R)
Rep. Kenneth Wennemar (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: David Niss, Legislative Council
Jacki Sherman, Committee Secretary

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

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing: HB 245, HB 225
Executive Action: HB 184 DO PASS AS AMENDED
SB 32 DO CONCUR

HEARING ON HB 245

Opening Statement by Sponsor: REP. CHRIS AHNER, HD 51, said this is a bill revising the Aid to Families with Dependent Children Program (AFDC), authorizing the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services to provide child care assistance to low

income families who are not currently receiving aid to families with dependent children and who need child care in order to work.

Proponents' Testimony: Jinny Knight, Childcare Partnerships, Montana Research and Referral Network, stated with the \$85,000 funding received in a tri-county area, 32 families are being served with childcare assistance for 51 children. Thirty-five of those children need full-time daycare. Sixteen children need part-time daycare, possibly after school. This program is valuable in keeping families off AFDC. Thirteen families that were on the program formerly were on transitional childcare. Transitional childcare is available to families who lose their AFDC grant. This is childcare that helps them for up to one year at which time they would have the chance to go on the at-risk program or the block grant program. The at-risk program has a higher priority. An inventory done shows 31 of those families are single mothers. Only five of these single mothers receive child support. Without the at-risk program these families would be on AFDC which would increase the welfare reform load.

David Hemion, Montana Association of Churches, discussed the general topic of welfare reform and said that interests stem from policy positions that seek to create the best possible incentives for people to move toward self-sufficiency. This bill recognizes a principle and upholds family values. That principle should be honored as much as possible when reforming welfare systems.

Penny Robbe, Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS), Family Assistance Division, stated that the at-risk daycare program serves approximately 900 families and keeps them off the AFDC program. The other elements of the bill are to allow maximum flexibility in the JOBST program and to get rid of outdated language.

Tammie Huttinger, low-income mother of two, Member of Project Uplift, said this bill will go "hand in hand with self-sufficiency." A main deterrent is the cost of daycare. A single mother getting paid minimum wage cannot afford daycare. This bill would greatly reduce these deterrents to becoming self-sufficient.

Sharon Hoff, Executive Director, Montana Catholic Conference, said that in 1991 the Catholic bishops of the United States wrote a document called *Putting Children and Families First* in which they listed some policy criteria about families. Some of those criteria are appropriate to this piece of legislation. One of those is "Help Don't Hurt." This program helps working poor families. It helps empower families and helps families become more responsible to their children. Families want to work and to be able to provide. They can't do this without good, safe, affordable childcare. It is important to build on the strength of families, reward responsibility and sacrifice for children. This bill would support working families.

Laurie Koutnik, Executive Director, Christian Coalition of Montana, said as the state addresses welfare reform, it is imperative that incentives are put in place to help keep families off AFDC. This bill would do that. Hopefully, this bill would facilitate many to move from a dependent to an independent state. When parents become gainfully employed they not only gain job experience and self-esteem but they also obtain skills to climb the ladder to opportunities that lie ahead. Eventually many will move off public assistance. Until then the state has a vested interest to encourage childcare assistance to low income families. This bill would be good for children and parents.

Kate Cholewa, Montana Women's Lobby, and Human Services Foundation, said they support the bill as part of welfare reform. SRS does a good job of going out in the field and talking to those out there. This flexibility would be good.

Wayne Lewis, Advocate, Montanans for Social Justice, stated many of their clients are on the system. Many of them depend on the at-risk childcare program to keep from falling back onto the welfare system.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

REP. LOREN SOFT asked **Penny Robbe** if there are time limitations on this program or if it goes on as long as an individual needs help. **Ms. Robbe** replied as long as the person remains eligible for the program they continue to receive that service. They must still meet the income and priority guidelines for receiving that service.

REP. SOFT inquired of **Ms. Robbe** if this bill would cause these people to be exempt from the JOBST program while they are working. He asked if the JOBST program helps them to increase their job skills. **Ms. Robbe** answered that it does not affect at-risk daycare at all. The JOBST program exemptions have been addressed to allow the department maximum flexibility for those AFDC clients who receive AFDC cash payments to allow them to enter into the JOBST program and to be prioritized for the most appropriate services.

REP. SOFT asked **Ms. Robbe** if in the case of a low-income mother, what kind of assistance is available to increase her skills to the point where her income would be enough so that she would not have to rely on the program that the bill provides. **Ms. Robbe** replied for persons currently on the AFDC program there are two kinds of daycare available. One is if they are allowed entry, they can then provide the childcare necessary so the parents receive appropriate training. The other way to receive childcare

funds is through the self-initiated program that is designed for people who are in post-secondary education.

CHAIRMAN DUANE GRIMES said currently there are exemptions, but the department would like to include the exemption for the JOBST program through administrative rule. The administrative rule would take into consideration all the things currently used for exemptions. The only difference is considering children of a young age instead of specifying their age as three years old and also saying how many hours per week. **Ms. Robbe** replied that was accurate. Federal statutes demand these exemptions.

REP. JOHN BOHLINGER asked **Ms. Robbe** to explain the JOBST program and to tell what one does to qualify for the program. **Ms. Robbe** answered the JOBST program stands for Job Opportunity and Basic Skills and Training. This is the work education and training program that is available for persons who are drawing AFDC assistance. The federal government in partnership with the state provides certain types of training activities, services, and case management. The ability to develop job seeking skills, among other skills, are all a part of JOBST. The funding is limited in both federal and state. Only a small percentage of AFDC clients can get into the program.

REP. BOHLINGER asked **Ms. Robbe** what the funding formula is. **Ms. Robbe** replied there is actually a blend of funding in the JOBST program; about 70% federal funding and 30% state.

REP. SOFT asked **Ms. Robbe** what the employment outcome has been of JOBST program graduates. **Ms. Robbe** answered 22%-30% of the graduates are successfully employed by the end of the eight-week training period.

REP. SUSAN SMITH addressed **Jinny Knight** and inquired about the at-risk program clients and asked if they could bring their children to Childcare Partnerships. **Ms. Knight** responded that Childcare Partnerships does not provide daycare services, but is a referral resource that links families who need childcare with registered daycare providers and licensed daycare centers. Childcare Partnerships provides people with a list of caregivers with current openings and facilities that are available. Participants would be parents in the JOBST program or those who are low-income and working.

REP. SUSAN SMITH asked **Ms. Knight** how many people were currently employed at Childcare Partnerships. **Ms. Knight** replied that she was the only full-time employee in addition to an executive director, an assistant, a receptionist, and one volunteer worker.

REP. SOFT asked **Ms. Robbe** if a single mother being paid minimum wage couldn't afford to pay for childcare, would this bill provide the assistance she needed. **Ms. Robbe** replied they might qualify for one of the at-risk daycare spots.

REP. SOFT asked Ms. Robbe if working full-time and receiving assistance for childcare, what incentives are available for additional education. Ms. Robbe answered through the at-risk childcare program there is no requirement that an individual show that they are improving their educational status.

REP. SOFT asked Ms. Knight what the cut-off point was which would exclude people from the program. Ms. Knight answered for a family of three--which would be a mother and two children--the maximum income allowed is \$1,779 per month. That includes all forms of income.

(TAPE 1, SIDE B)

REP. BRAD MOLNAR asked Ms. Robbe if it was correct that total rulemaking authority is needed to match up with rapidly changing federal situations. Ms. Robbe replied yes. REP. MOLNAR then asked why so many items are struck on the bill. Ms. Robbe answered that those items were struck in anticipation that the federal government would give the states more flexibility.

REP. BILL CAREY asked Ms. Robbe what the average income of program clients is. Ms. Robbe said that information is not available at this time, but could be obtained.

REP. CAROLYN SQUIRES asked Ms. Robbe how many families have been helped and if the number has increased. Ms. Robbe replied yes.

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. CHRIS AHNER, HD 51, said it was a real struggle when she was a single mother with children in daycare and this bill would have helped her.

HEARING ON HB 225

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. CHASE HIBBARD, said the issues addressed by this bill were not simple. He requested postponement of the bill for one week to work out these issues.

Proponents' Testimony:

Tom Schmidt agreed postponement for one week was necessary.

Susan Mora said postponement for one week is fine.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Questions From Committee Members and Responses: None.

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. CHASE HIBBARD said since there are no objections, consideration of this bill would be postponed until Friday, February 3rd.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 32

Motion: REP. CAROLYN SQUIRES MOVED SB 32 BE CONCURRED IN.

Discussion:

REP. CAROLYN SQUIRES said the intent of this bill is the availability of an individual to renew a license in exigent circumstances.

REP. SUSAN SMITH stated that training is important. Two years is sufficient time.

REP. LIZ SMITH asked Gene Kiser how this bill can enhance the quality of personnel. Mr. Kiser replied in 1994 there were nine coroners who could not get to the 16-hour course, and without the training they would lose their licensure. This bill would allow the POST Council to make the judgment on exigent circumstances in the case of coroners.

REP. LIZ SMITH asked Mr. Kiser how the POST Council screens these individuals. Kiser stated the POST Council has 15 members that act on requests. They decide if reason is justifiable.

REP. DICK GREEN said he opposed this bill.

REP. KEN WENNEMAR stated there are only two training courses a year. If a coroner is sick or handling a case they may not be able to make it to the training. These types of circumstances ought to be considered.

REP. BRUCE SIMON said "Why throw away the training that has already been invested. Then they have to train someone new again and training is important. Alternative methods of training, like video tapes, might be used as an option for these coroners."

REP. SOFT said they do have two years to get 16 hours of training and have some flexibility. There are numerous ways to get training besides the two courses per year in the state.

CHAIRMAN DUANE GRIMES said, "Given the nature of our rural state and the amount of courses we do have, it would not be wrong to allow for increased efficiency?"

REP. SUSAN SMITH inquired of Mr. Kiser if the coroner title is a full-time position. Kiser answered 60% of the coroners work in

the Sheriff's office so they are full or part-time. The other 40% are elected officials, so it depends on the county.

Motion/Vote: A MOTION WAS MADE THAT SB 32 BE CONCURRED IN. Roll call vote was taken. The motion carried 10-6 with REPS. SOFT, S. SMITH, MARTINEZ, L. SMITH, GREEN, AND BERGMAN voting no.

(TAPE 2, SIDE 1)

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 184

Motion: REP. BILL CAREY MOVED THAT HB 184 DO PASS.

Motion: REP. BRUCE SIMON MADE A SUBSTITUTE MOTION TO STRIKE SECTION 5.

Discussion:

REP. DEB KOTTEL said overall this bill has her support. New section 5 had some concerns that she felt might need amending.

REP. BRUCE SIMON said there are some senior psychologists out there who have not taken the national exam. Section 5 is unnecessary.

DAVID NISS, Staff Attorney, stated that this is a type of "narrower" license. The board, if intending to apply the same narrower criteria, would adopt rules containing the same kind of criteria as on the top of page 3 of the bill.

REP. SIMON related the issue is allowing someone from another state to move into this state and become licensed without having to take the national exam which was not required when they first became licensed. There are some people who are "grandfathered."

Motion: REP. SIMON OFFERED A SUBSTITUTE MOTION TO STRIKE SECTION 5.

Carol Grell, Attorney for the Board of Psychologists, stated they are not seeking separate licenses. The persons who come in have taken a written exam in their state and hold a license. Senior psychologists who have been "grandfathered" in their own states, never took the national written exam and do not qualify. They would be able to substitute 20 years of practical experience in place of the written exam. Another difference in this group is their degree. Nowadays their degree must be in clinical psychology and that is a national requirement.

REP. SIMON said the senior psychologists that are being referred to are currently licensed in another state.

DAVID NISS, STAFF ATTORNEY, said the board states the requirements be equivalent to Montana law.

REP. SIMON asked Grell if this bill passes, could the board change rules to interpret it as a reciprocity clause. Grell answered that rules can only be implemented if based on statutory authority.

REP. GREEN stated the new section 5 is redundant to MCA 37-17-304.

REP. DEB KOTTEL said the other states must meet the criteria in Montana, unless they have practiced for 20 years.

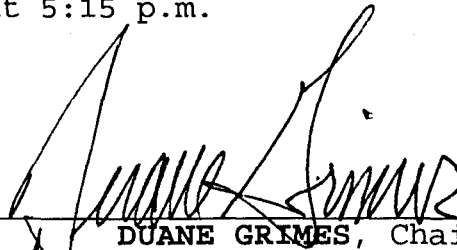
REP. LIZ SMITH stated that New Section 5 is needed.

Motion/Vote: REP. SIMON MOVED A SUBSTITUTE MOTION TO APPROVE AMENDMENT FOR SECTION 5. The motion failed.


Motion/Vote: REP. KOTTEL MOVED THAT HB 184 DO PASS AS AMENDED. Motion carried 14-2 with REP. LIZ SMITH and REP. SIMON voting no.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.



DUANE GRIMES, Chairman



JACKI SHERMAN, Secretary

DG/JS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Human Services and Aging

ROLL CALL

DATE 1-25-95

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Rep. Duane Grimes, Chairman	✓		
Rep. John Bohlinger, Vice Chairman, Majority	✓		
Rep. Carolyn Squires, Vice Chair, Minority	✓		
Rep. Chris Ahner	✓		
Rep. Ellen Bergman	✓		
Rep. Bill Carey	✓		
Rep. Dick Green	✓		
Rep. Toni Hagener	✓		
Rep. Deb Kottel	✓	XXXX	
Rep. Bonnie Martinez	✓		
Rep. Brad Molnar	✓		
Rep. Bruce Simon	✓		
Rep. Liz Smith	✓		
Rep. Susan Smith	✓		
Rep. Loren Soft	✓		
Rep. Ken Wennemar	✓	XXXX	



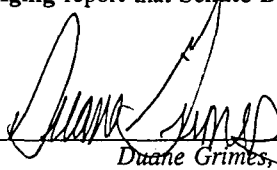
HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

January 26, 1995

Page 1 of 1

Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on Human Services and Aging report that Senate Bill 32 (first reading copy -- white) be concurred in.

Signed: _____


Duane Grimes, Chair

Carried by: Rep. Squires

mm
1/26
Committee Vote:
Yes 10, No 6.

221258SC.Hbk



HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

January 26, 1995

Page 1 of 1

Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on Human Services and Aging report that House Bill 184 (first reading copy -- white) do pass as amended.

Signed: _____

Duane Grimes
Duane Grimes, Chair

And, that such amendments read:

1. Page 3, line 1.
Strike: "practical"
Insert: "clinical"
Following: "experience"
Insert: "in the last 15 years prior to filing the application"

-END- 7

MM
1/26
Committee Vote:
Yes 4, No 2.

221256SC.Hbk

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROLL CALL VOTE

Human Services and Aging Committee

DATE _____ BILL NO. SB32 NUMBER _____

MOTION: Carolyn Squires "Do Pass"

NAME	AYE	NO
Rep. Duane Grimes, Chairman	✓	
Rep. John Bohlinger, Vice Chairman, Majority	✓	
Rep. Carolyn Squires, Vice Chairman, Minority	✓	
Rep. Chris Ahner	✓	
Rep. Ellen Bergman		✓
Rep. Bill Carey	✓	
Rep. Dick Green		✓
Rep. Toni Hagener	✓	
Rep. Deb Kottel	✓	
Rep. Bonnie Martinez		✓
Rep. Brad Molnar	✓	
Rep. Bruce Simon	✓	
Rep. Liz Smith		✓
Rep. Susan Smith		✓
Rep. Loren Soft		✓
Rep. Ken Wennemar	✓	

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROLL CALL VOTE

Human Services and Aging Committee

DATE 1-25-95 BILL NO. HB184 NUMBER _____

MOTION: "Do Pass" Bill Carey
"Do Pass as amended"

HB018401. ADM

NAME	AYE	NO
Rep. Duane Grimes, Chairman	✓	
Rep. John Bohlinger, Vice Chairman, Majority	✓	
Rep. Carolyn Squires, Vice Chairman, Minority	✓	
Rep. Chris Ahner	✓	
Rep. Ellen Bergman	✓	
Rep. Bill Carey	✓	
Rep. Dick Green	✓	
Rep. Toni Hagener	✓	
Rep. Deb Kottel	✓	
Rep. Bonnie Martinez	✓	
Rep. Brad Molnar	✓	
Rep. Bruce Simon		✓
Rep. Liz Smith		✓
Rep. Susan Smith	✓	
Rep. Loren Soft	✓	
Rep. Ken Wennemar	✓	

14 / 2

Human Services :

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SUPPORT OPPOSE HB 225 AMEND

COMMENTS: _____

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITORS REGISTER

Human Services 3 Aging

DATE 1-25-95

BILL NO. HB 225
HB 245

SPONSOR(S) Hibbard / Ahner

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PLEASE PRINT

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NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	Support	Oppose
Susan Mora	Francis Pharmaceutical Industry Association		225
BECKY Fleming-Siebert	DFS	245	
Lynda Hart	DFS	245	
Jinny Knight	Child Care Partnerships	245	
Juanita Williams	DFS	245	
Jeff Ireland HB 225	SRS Medicaid	Neutral	
Penny Robke	SRS	X	
Linda Fillingim	SRS		
Kay Fox	Montana Low-Income Coalition	245 X	
John Loezler	MT Medical Assn		225
SHARON HOFF	MT CATH CONF	245 X	
Laurie Koutouk	CHRISTIAN COALITION OF MT	245 ✓	
Tammie Auttinger	Project Uplift	245 ✓	

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HR:1993

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CS-14

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITORS REGISTER

Human Services & Aging

DATE 1-25-95

BILL NO. HB 225
HB 245

SPONSOR(S) Hubbard / Ahner

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NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	Support	Oppose
<u>TOM SCHMIDT</u> <u>1776 ND Central Life Tower-</u> <u>445 MINNESOTA ST</u> <u>ST PAUL MN 55107</u>	<u>Pfizer Inc.</u>	<u>x</u>	
<u>BDB TRUXELL</u> <u>15032 N. 62ND ST</u> <u>SCOTTSDALE, AZ. 85254</u>	<u>GLAXO INC</u>	<u>x</u>	
<u>Kate Cholewa</u>	<u>MT Women's Lobby</u> <u>Human Service Found.</u>	<u>HB 245</u>	
<u>David Hemm</u>	<u>MT ASSOC. OF CHURCHES</u>	<u>HB 245</u>	
<u>Steve Yeakel</u>	<u>MT COUNCIL FOR</u> <u>MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH</u>	<u>HB 245</u> <u>✓</u>	

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ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

HR:1993

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CS-14