

MINUTES

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & CLAIMS

Call to Order: By **SENATOR GARY AKLESTAD, Chairman**, on April 5, 1995, at 8:00 a.m., Room 108.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Gary C. Aklestad, Chairman (R)
Sen. Thomas F. Keating, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Thomas A. "Tom" Beck (R)
Sen. James H. "Jim" Burnett (R)
Sen. Loren Jenkins (R)
Sen. Ethel M. Harding (R)
Sen. Arnie A. Mohl (R)
Sen. Charles "Chuck" Swysgood (R)
Sen. Daryl Toews (R)
Sen. Larry J. Tveit (R)
Sen. B.F. "Chris" Christiaens (D)
Sen. Eve Franklin (D)
Sen. Judy H. Jacobson (D)
Sen. Greg Jergeson (D)
Sen. John "J.D." Lynch (D)
Sen. Mignon Waterman (D)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Taryn Purdy, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Lynn Staley, Committee Secretary

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

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing: None
Executive Action: HB 595

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HOUSE BILL 595

Motion/vote: **SENATOR BECK MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE RECONSIDER ACTION ON HB 595. Motion CARRIED.**

Discussion: **SENATOR TVEIT** said the site selection committee earlier discussed a free standing \$67 million prison. He

questioned if that is what HB 595 addresses as the state is already going into the regional jail concept.

CHAIRMAN AKLESTAD said the bill that Finance and Claims Committee concurred in earlier for approximately \$9 million was for regional jails; approximately \$4.5 million went to Great Falls and the other \$4.5 million for a regional jail that has not yet been determined. That bill did not come close to covering the state's needs as far as cells in the state. HB 595 would allow the site selection committee to see what is needed to possibly build one regional jail in the state that could be privately leased. He maintained that is the function of the site selection committee.

SENATOR WATERMAN expressed her frustrations with the Corrections issue and the fact that there does not seem to be a clear direction. She said although different options will be looked at, HB 595 concludes that it will be a prison with up to 1500 beds and the state will no longer be talking about regional jails. She noted that **REPRESENTATIVE BERGSAGEL** felt with the two regional prisons that were approved yesterday, the remodel at Warm Springs and the additions at the prison and boot camp, there would be a capacity of 2000. She thought that the Department of Corrections should figure how many beds are needed and whether the direction is to a free standing prison or regional jails. She concluded that if HB 595 is funded, they will tell us we should build a free standing prison and where it should be. She voiced concern that the Department knows where they are going.

SENATOR BECK remarked that the committee has to investigate the fact that we might not build prisons; we might go to private facilities. There are attractive offers from the private sector to build and operate the prisons for less cost than what the State can. Two sessions ago there was \$20 million earmarked for Montana State Prison for more beds which was never used, and he indicated that the same thing was done last session. He concluded that the private sector has to be looked at for corrections.

SENATOR HARDING said if there is a site selection committee, they should look into not only the projection of prisoners over the next ten years but privatizing as well.

SENATOR CHRISTIAENS commented that he has been on Governor's advisory councils for prisons since 1983, and he indicated that the legislature never pays attention to any of the studies. He remarked that he does not disagree with privatization, but he did not think we need to pay \$50,000 to decide it.

Motion: **SENATOR BECK MOVED THAT HB 595 DO PASS.**

Motion/vote: **SENATOR WATERMAN MADE A SUBSTITUTE MOTION THAT HB 595 BE TABLED. Motion CARRIED on a roll call vote.**

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 8:25 a.m.



SENATOR GARY AKLESTAD, Chairman



LYNN STALEY, Secretary

GA/ljs

MONTANA SENATE
1995 LEGISLATURE
FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL

DATE

4/5/95

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
SWYSGOOD, CHUCK	✓		
BURNETT, JIM	✓		
MOHL, ARNIE	✓		
JERGESON, GREG	✓		
FRANKLIN, EVE	✓		
TVEIT, LARRY	✓		
JENKINS, LOREN	✓		
JACOBSON, JUDY	✓		
LYNCH, J.D.	✓		
HARDING, ETHEL	✓		
TOEWS, DARYL	✓		
CHRISTIAENS, B.F. "CHRIS"	✓		
WATERMAN, MIGNON	✓		
KEATING, TOM - VICE CHAIRMAN	✓		
BECK, TOM	✓		
AKLESTAD, GARY - CHAIRMAN	✓		

SEN:1995
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MONTANA SENATE
1995 LEGISLATURE
FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTE

DATE 4/5/95 BILL NO. HB 595 NUMBER _____

MOTION: Senator Waterman substitute
motion - HB 595 Be Passed
Motion Carried

NAME	AYE	NO
SWYSGOOD, CHUCK		✓
BURNETT, JIM		✓
MOHL, ARNIE		✓
JERGESON, GREG	✓	
FRANKLIN, EVE	✓	
TVEIT, LARRY	✓	
JENKINS, LOREN	✓	
JACOBSON, JUDY	✓	
LYNCH, J.D.	✓	
HARDING, ETHEL	✓	
TOEWS, DARYL	✓	
CHRISTIAENS, B.F. "CHRIS"	✓	
WATERMAN, MIGNON	✓	
KEATING, TOM - VICE CHAIRMAN	✓	
BECK, TOM		✓
AKLESTAD, GARY - CHAIRMAN		✓