MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 54th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & CLAIMS

Call to Order: By SENATOR GARY AKLESTAD, Chairman, on Monday, March 27, 1995, at 3:40 p.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. Ethel M. Harding (R) Sen. Arnie A. Mohl (R) Sen. Charles "Chuck" Swysgood (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: Senators Jenkins, Toews, Tveit

Members Absent: None

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

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

Committee Business Summary: Hearing: HB 585 Executive Action: HB 6, HB 19, HB 15, HB 585

HEARING ON HOUSE BILL 585

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REPRESENTATIVE ERNEST BERGSAGEL, House District 95, Malta, sponsor, said Governor Racicot requested approximately \$9 million of bonding authority to build regional jails, one at Great Falls and another one or two in other locations. HB 585 leaves it open for construction of prison facilities up to \$9 million.

Proponents' Testimony:

Rick Day, Director of the Department of Corrections and Human Services, explained that HB 585 is a companion bill to HB 304. He said this proposal is critical to the capacity needs and will also provide administrative efficiency because it does not require a state staff to administer. The state responsibility will be for contract auditing, monitoring and training. The administrative support is the responsibility of the local sheriff's department. The regional facilities will allow the counties and state to take advantage of staffing efficiencies through the joint facility management. They hope to allow the regional facilities to have about 608 beds of hard cell prison expansion between now and the year 2005.

Opponents' Testimony:

None.

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

SENATOR MOHL questioned how the cities and counties were reimbursed for inmates.

REPRESENTATIVE BERGSAGEL said this legislation takes care of the construction, and the costs discussed in HB 304 are related to the cost of caring for an inmate at the prison. The way it is set up is they don't exceed that cost, and they have to agree to that before a contract is entered into. They have to agree that they will be able to harbor that prisoner at the same cost or less than at the Montana State Prison.

SENATOR MOHL referred to the Kalispell jail and said it was about \$1.5 or \$2 million short of funding the sheriff's department. Assuming the counties got reimbursed, he questioned that if other counties had the same problem that this would this help them out.

REPRESENTATIVE BERGSAGEL said under current statute, he did not believe it would help them out in reimbursement for capital construction costs. He didn't know if it would help in terms of whether they have the ability to accept inmates for the prison. The problem is hiring enough sheriffs to be able to staff the department and have the cash to pay them.

Rick Day said with an existing jail facility, this particular proposal will not be of much assistance; however, for the counties that are developing these facilities, it would be a prime reason to go ahead with this project.

SENATOR MOHL said it is helping the state in the sense that if there are criminals that the prison doesn't have room for, the counties are housing them until there is a vacancy. He asked if the state reimburses the local departments. SENATE FINANCE & CLAIMS COMMITTEE March 27, 1995 Page 3 of 7

Mr. Day said if a local jail houses a state inmate, the state reimburses them and they use those revenues, along with federal revenues, to sustain operations. Currently there are about 44 inmates outside the prison because it is over capacity. The contractual rate will be paid to counties that are housing the inmates.

SENATOR CHRISTIAENS asked what rate the state reimburses jails for housing inmates who have been picked up for probation or parole violations and if that rate varied by county.

Mr. Day said it varies per local agreement. The Department of Justice primarily negotiates those contracts at this time, and the Highway Patrol has the most expenses related to those funds. Although it does vary by county, as a new agreement is arranged, there will be an effort to consolidate those dollars.

SENATOR AKLESTAD questioned what the \$40 per day figure related to.

Mr. Day said it is basically for the care and custody of the inmates and does not include outside medical. The state will maintain responsibility for outside medical and provide some limited legal support. He said there would be a canteen type facility for dispensing such things as aspirin, etc.

SENATOR AKLESTAD asked if any medical outside would have to be contracted services with the area on health care costs, to which Mr. Day said they are not dictating how the county does it, but that is primarily how it would be done. As far as transportation, it would depend on the inmate; it could be the state prison or the counties. The counties currently transport inmates to the Montana State Prison.

SENATOR AKLESTAD asked if a legal library would have to be furnished and who would participate in that.

Mr. Day said there is a partial misconception that a full legal library is necessary, but they do have to provide them access to the courts and legal support. They will assist in providing that access, but it will basically be at the local level.

SENATOR AKLESTAD commented that the \$40 per day would basically cover board and room and programming. He questioned if all programming as far as activities would be provided within the complex, and Mr. Day said that was correct.

In questioning from **SENATOR MOHL** what it cost to keep inmates in the prison currently, **Mr. Day** said it is slightly under \$40 a day, but it will be above \$40 a day in the next biennium.

SENATOR MOHL asked if the prison that would be built would be first class or whether a lot of extras would be eliminated.

SENATE FINANCE & CLAIMS COMMITTEE March 27, 1995 Page 4 of 7

Mr. Day said there are misconceptions about what is available in the prisons. They do not provide televisions; that is an inmate purchase. Because of the smaller size of the local facility, there will be less amenities than at the Montana State Prison. He anticipates basic treatment and some form of industry will be available. There will be less visiting and noncontact visiting. He said the local facilities will be more restrictive than the prison, but they are all designed to be closed and locked.

<u>Closing by Sponsor:</u>

REPRESENTATIVE BERGSAGEL said one of the reasons they are not proposing to build a large facility is there will be another bill that will request a site selection process for another prison. He concluded that HB 585 is probably the cheaper method for taking care of inmates, but the decision is up to the committee.

CHAIRMAN AKLESTAD announced that the meeting would recess until 4:30 when the other members that are in other committee hearings could be present for Executive Action.

(HEARING RECESSED - 4:00 P.M.)

(HEARING RECONVENED - 4:35 P.M.)

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HOUSE BILL 6

Motion: SENATOR KEATING MOVED AMENDMENT #hb000604.all, which removes two awards totalling \$184,560 in grants from the renewable resource grant and loan program. EXHIBIT 1.

<u>Motion/Vote</u>: SENATOR LYNCH MADE A SUBSTITUTE MOTION THAT HOUSE BILL 6 BE CONCURRED IN. Motion FAILED on a roll call vote.

<u>Vote</u>: The motion on **SENATOR KEATING'S** amendment **EXHIBIT 1 FAILED** on a roll call vote.

<u>Motion/Vote</u>: SENATOR BECK MOVED AMENDMENT #hb000602.a15. EXHIBIT 2. The motion CARRIED on a roll call vote.

<u>Motion/Vote</u>: SENATOR BECK MOVED HOUSE BILL 6 AS AMENDED BE CONCURRED IN. Motion CARRIED. SENATOR CHRISTIAENS will carry HB 6.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HOUSE BILL 19

<u>Motion</u>: SENATOR WATERMAN MOVED AMENDMENT #hb001901.all, which would reduce the cost of bonded indebtedness needed to fund capital projects. EXHIBIT 3

Discussion: SENATOR HARDING resisted the amendment and asked Jane Hamman to explain the amendment.

SENATE FINANCE & CLAIMS COMMITTEE March 27, 1995 Page 5 of 7

Jane Hamman, Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP), said the Governor's budget was put together with \$5.2 million planned to go to the general fund in the first year. If it does not continue to go to general fund in the first year, then additional reductions will need to be made. She said having reduced the Governor's bonded program from in excess of \$85 million to \$39 million, it is a wiser course of action to proceed issuing 20 years bonds for what remains in the programs.

<u>Vote</u>: SENATOR WATERMAN'S amendment motion EXHIBIT 3 FAILED on a roll call vote.

Motion: SENATOR HARDING MOVED HOUSE BILL 19 BE CONCURRED IN.

<u>Motion</u>: SENATOR MOHL MADE A SUBSTITUTE MOTION TO TABLE HOUSE BILL 19 UNTIL THE COMMITTEE HAS ACTED ON HOUSE BILL 297.

SENATOR AKLESTAD said the committee needs to act on HB 19 today, and he would resist the motion to table the bill.

Vote: SENATOR MOHL'S substitute motion to TABLE HB 19 FAILED.

<u>Vote</u>: SENATOR HARDING'S motion that HB 19 BE CONCURRED IN CARRIED with SENATORS MOHL, CHRISTIAENS, SWYSGOOD, FRANKLIN and JERGESON opposed. SENATOR HARDING will carry HB 19.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HOUSE BILL 585

<u>Motion</u>: SENATOR CHRISTIAENS MOVED HOUSE BILL 585 BE CONCURRED IN.

<u>Discussion</u>: In answer to SENATOR SWYSGOOD'S question of what the title is since it is bonding for the law enforcement, REPRESENTATIVE BERGSAGEL said there is a \$125,000 appropriation for the Highway Patrol office to be located at that facility, and that is what the law enforcement is for.

SENATOR KEATING asked if there were a couple locations that had been selected for the prisons.

SENATOR AKLESTAD said one of the locations is Cascade County and \$4.2 million of bonding authority would go for that.

REPRESENTATIVE BERGSAGEL said \$4.3 million would be for the Great Falls regional jail center, and the balance left up to the Department of Administration or the Governor to approve the contract.

<u>Vote</u>: SENATOR CHRISTIAENS'S motion to concur in HB 585 CARRIED with SENATORS LYNCH, JACOBSON and BECK opposed. SENATOR CHRISTIAENS will carry HB 585.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HOUSE BILL 15

<u>Motion/vote</u>: SENATOR KEATING MOVED AMENDMENT #hb001506.A11, which would provide funding and authorization for replacement of an electrical distribution system at MSU-Billings. EXHIBIT 4.

SENATOR KEATING'S motion EXHIBIT 4 FAILED with SENATORS KEATING, MOHL and SWYSGOOD in favor of the motion.

<u>Motion</u>: SENATOR CHRISTIAENS MOVED AN AMENDMENT TO HB 15, which strikes the amount of \$12,559,240, inserts \$17,515,000 and restores the capitol restoration to the Governor's budget. EXHIBIT 5

Discussion: SENATOR HARDING said she believes it is the state's responsibility to do the maintenance on the capitol and the \$12,559,240 is for the maintenance of the building. She added that private funds could be obtained for the restoration.

In answer to **SENATOR MOHL, SENATOR HARDING** said there is a fund in place for private donations for restorations, and they do have some money now for restoration.

SENATOR CHRISTIAENS commented that the way we seem to handle donations is deplorable. As we sit and listen to no pharmacy building at Missoula although funds have been donated, he questioned how long we expect people in this state to continue to donate money to the state and then the legislature refuses to do their part. He said the Pharmacy Building is a prime example of that. In the last session, the Davidsons from Great Falls donated over \$1 million for a building on the campus at Missoula, and the legislature almost decided not to accept it because of the operations and maintenance. On the other hand, we are expecting people to donate \$5.3 million for the restoration of this capitol building. This amendment **EXHIBIT 5** continues to have \$1.1 million from donations. He urged support of the amendment.

<u>Vote</u>: SENATOR CHRISTIAENS' amendment motion EXHIBIT 5 FAILED on a roll call vote.

Motion: SENATOR SWYSGOOD MOVED AMENDMENT hb001507.a11. EXHIBIT 6.

<u>Discussion</u>: SENATOR JERGESON resisted the amendment and said one location is needed to get all the offices together for the benefit of employers, employees and the training programs.

SENATOR CHRISTIAENS opposed the amendment as did SENATOR WATERMAN, who asked if there would be money in HB 2 for the Havre Job Service to rent and remodel an existing facility if the money is stricken in HB 15. SENATOR SWYSGOOD said when the budget was before the subcommittee, there were rent monies there, but he could recall nothing specific about the Havre facility.

In answer to SENATOR WATERMAN'S question of whether Havre is renting their facility now, Gary Curtis, Department of Labor, Job Service, said the Job Service owns the main building. It is the building that is the most crowded and does not have good access. They rent a second location that is about one mile distant, and people trying to get service have to go to both places.

SENATOR WATERMAN questioned if there was money in their budget to rent and remodel.

Mr. Curtis said there is money in the budget to continue renting the site they have. If a building is bought, a bond would have to be put out and they would have to make payments on the bond as best they could with the existing budget.

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

SENATOR SWYSGOOD said there had to be some alternative to buying a building, and that would be renting. He voiced concern with language that was added stating that if federal funds become unavailable, the Department of Labor is directed to reduce operating of personal services in order to service the debt. He maintained that they could rent a facility that would be sufficient to take care of their needs.

<u>Vote</u>: **SENATOR SWYSGOOD'S** amendment motion **EXHIBIT 6 CARRIED** on a roll call vote.

<u>Motion/Vote</u>: SENATOR HARDING MOVED HOUSE BILL 15 AS AMENDED BE CONCURRED IN. Motion CARRIED with SENATOR JERGESON opposed. SENATOR HARDING will carry HB 15.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:20 p.m.

SENATOR GARY AKLESTAD, Chairman

LYNN STALEY, Secretary

1995 LEGISLATURE pommeeting FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE DATE 3/37/95

ROLL CALL

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Page 1 of 1 March 28, 1995

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Finance and Claims having had under consideration HB 6 (third reading copy -- blue), respectfully report that HB 6 be amended as follows and as so amended be concurred in.

Signed:

Senator Gary Aklestad, Chair

That such amendments read:

1. Page 5, line 20.
Following: "established."
Insert: "(1)"

2. Page 5, line 24.

Insert: "(2) Any funds in excess of the amount appropriated for grants under [sections 1 through 3] are available for appropriation for authorized purposes from the renewable resource grant and loan state special revenue account."

-END-

Amd. Coord. Sec. of Senate

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Senator Carrying Bill

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Page 1 of 1 March 28, 1995

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Finance and Claims having had under consideration HB 19 (third reading copy -- blue), respectfully report that HB 19 be concurred in.

Signed: Chlever Senator Gary Aklestad, Chair

Amd. Coord. Sec. of Senate

Senator Carrying Bill

Page 1 of 1 March 28, 1995

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Finance and Claims having had under consideration HB 585 (third reading copy -- blue), respectfully report that HB 585 be concurred in.

Signed:

Senator Gary Aklestad, Chair

Amd. Coord. Sec. of Senate

Senator Carrying Bill

711116SC.SPV

Page 1 of 1 March 28, 1995

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Finance and Claims having had under consideration HB 15 (third reading copy -- blue), respectfully report that HB 15 be amended as follows and as so amended be concurred in.

Signed:

Senator Gary Aklestad, Chair

That such amendments read:

1. Page 2, lines 18 and 19. Strike: Lines 18 and 19 in their entirety.

2. Page 2, line 21. Strike: "(1)"

3. Page 2, line 28 through Page 3, line 4. Strike: subsection (2) in its entirety

-END-

Amd. Coord. Sec. of Senate

Senator Carrying Bill

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SEMATE FINANCE AND CLAIMS	
EXCILIBIT NO.	
DATE 3 27/94	
BILL NO. 2B6	

Amendments to House Bill No. 6 Third Reading Copy

Requested by Senator Keating For the Committee on Senate Finance and Claims

> Prepared by Nan LeFebvre March 25, 1995

1. Page 2, lines 18 through 21. Strike: Lines 18 through 21 in their entirety.

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The purpose of this amendment is to remove two awards totalling \$184,560 in grants from the renewable resource grant and loan program. These projects do not actually "conserve, develop, manage, or preserve resources" as the statute indicates is the purpose of the renewable resource grant and loan program. Rather, they provide a mechanism for providing information to the public on the management of resources.

{Office of Legislative Fiscal Analyst

SEMATE FINANCE AND CLAIMS
EXHIBIT NO. 2
DATE 3/27/95
BILL NO TOB6

Amendments to House Bill No. 6 Third Reading Copy

Requested by Senator Beck For the Committee on Senate Finance & Claims

carried

Prepared by Lisa Mader March 27, 1995

1. Page 5, line 20. Following: "established." Insert: "(1)"

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2. Page 5, line 24.

Insert: "(2) Any funds in excess of the amount appropriated for grants under [sections 1 through 3] are available for appropriation for authorized purposes from the renewable resource grant and loan state special revenue account."

{Office of Legislative Fiscal Analyst

Amendments to House Bill No. 19 Third Reading Copy

SENATE FINANCE AND CLAIMS EXHIBIT NO. DATE BILL NO ...

Requested by Senator Waterman For the Committee on Senate Finance and Claims

Prepared by Nan LeFebvre March 25, 1995

1. Title, lines 7 through 9. Strike: "TRANSFERRING" on line 7 through "CONTINGENCY" on line 9 Insert: "APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO REDUCE BONDED INDEBTEDNESS"

2. Page 5, line 22 through 24. Strike: section 6 in its entirety.

Insert: "<u>NEW SECTION.</u> Section 6. Use of funds to reduce bonded indebtedness. For the capital projects approved in House Bill No. 15 and in House Bill No. 585, up to \$5 million of the coal severance taxes allocated to the long-range building program account during fiscal 1996 must be used to reduce the amount of general obligation bonds issued to fund the projects approved in House Bill No. 15 and in House Bill No. 585.

<u>NEW SECTION.</u> Section 7. Coordination instruction. If House Bill No. 15 and [this act] are both passed and approved, then House Bill No. 15 is amended by adding a new section that reads as follows:

"Appropriation. There is appropriated to the department of administration for the projects approved in House Bill No. 585 and [this act] up to \$5 million of the coal severance tax revenue deposited into the long-range building program account in fiscal year 1996 in order to reduce the amount of general obligation bonds required to fund the projects. The department shall allocate these funds in a manner that is consistent with prudent debt management principles and that schedules the payment of principal and interest to minimize the aggregate amount of debt service payable.""

Renumber: subsequent sections.

The purpose of this amendment is to reduce the cost of bonded indebtedness needed to fund capital projects approved by the 54th legislature. By issuing less debt, the state will save money due to lower overall interest costs.

{Office of Legislative Fiscal Analyst

SENATE FINANCE AND CLAIMS
EXHIBIT NO.
DATE 3/27/95
BILLE NO. AB15

Amendments to House Bill No. 15 Third Reading Copy

Requested by Senator Keating For the Committee on Senate Finance and Claims

Failed

Prepared by Nan LeFebvre March 27, 1995

 Page 2, following line 17.
 Insert: "Replacement of Primary Electrical Distribution System MSU-Billings

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<u>LRBP</u> \$1,487,500 <u>Auxiliary</u> \$262,500"

The purpose of this amendment is to provide funding and authorization for the replacement of an electrical distribution system that is currently in violation of national electrical codes. As it exists, the system poses an imminent safety hazard to MSU employees. The current distribution system is unreliable and on the verge of complete failure, which would result in loss of electrical power and heating for the entire campus. This project represents the next maintenance project on the Board of Regents' priority list.

{Office of Legislative Fiscal Analyst

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SENATE FINANCE AND CLAIMS EXHIBIT NO. DATE BILL NO.

Amendment to House Bill No. 15 Third Reading Copy

Requested by Senator Christiaens For the Senate Finance and Claims Committee

Failed

Prepared by the Department of Administration March 27, 1995

1. Page 1, line 29 Strike: "\$12,559,240" Insert: "\$17,515,000"

SENATE FINANCE AND CLAIMS EXHIBIT NO. 6 DATE 3/27/9-5 BALL NO. 74B15

Amendments to House Bill No. 15 Third Reading Copy

Requested by Senator Swysgood For the Committee on Senate Finance and Claims

Carried

Prepared by Nan LeFebvre March 28, 1995

1. Page 2, lines 18 and 19. Strike: Lines 18 and 19 in their entirety.

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2. Page 2, line 21. Strike: "(1)"

3. Page 2, line 28 through Page 3, line 4. Strike: subsection (2) in its entirety

{Office of Legislative Fiscal Analyst