

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA SENATE 55th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN DON HARGROVE**, on April 11, 1997, at 10:03 a.m., in Room 331.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Don Hargrove, Chairman (R)  
Sen. Kenneth "Ken" Mesaros, Vice Chairman (R)  
Sen. Vivian M. Brooke (D)  
Sen. Delwyn Gage (R)  
Sen. Fred Thomas (R)  
Sen. Bill Wilson (D)

**Members Excused:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** David Niss, Legislative Services Division  
Mary Morris, Committee Secretary

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

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: None  
Executive Action: HB 142, HB 499  
Discussion: Jefferson County and City of  
Missoula Land Board Proposals

#### **EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 142**

**Amendments:** HB014215.ash (EXHIBIT 1)

**Motion:** SEN. KEN MESAROS moved that AMENDMENT 16 OF HB014215.ASH BE ADOPTED.

**Discussion:**

David Niss, Legislative Services Division, explained that there were two studies in the amendment presented on 4/10/97. SEN. DELWYN GAGE moved to delete the first study because testimony indicated nothing would be accomplished by a study done six months after the effective date of the amendment. SEN. GAGE has since clarified that his intent was to leave in the study which occurs just before the six years expires.

**CHAIRMAN HARGROVE** agreed it would be more appropriate to have a study just before the sunset.

**SEN. GAGE** recommended the study be done just before the 58th session.

**SEN. VIVIAN BROOKE** stated she does not want the whole plan to be interrupted by the sunset.

**SEN. MESAROS** asserted his intent is to have some oversight. There are questions and concerns surrounding the issue and it should be reviewed at a later date.

**Vote:** The motion **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Motion/Vote:** **SEN. FRED THOMAS** moved that **HB 142 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.** The motion **CARRIED** with **SEN. GAGE** and **SEN. WILSON OPPOSED/**

**DISCUSSION ON JEFFERSON COUNTY AND CITY OF MISSOULA  
LAND BOARD PROPOSALS**

**CHAIRMAN HARGROVE** referred the Committee to two letters prepared by **Mr. Niss.** (**EXHIBITS 2 & 3**)

**SEN. BROOKE** asked that the salutation on the letters be changed.

**Mr. Niss** stated he asked **Clive Rooney, Department of Natural Resources,** whether he intended to ask the committee to recommend waiver of the fee for the City of Missoula. He stated **Mr. Rooney** indicated it was not appropriate for the Committee to get involved in the waiver and it was not his intent to have such a request in the letter.

In regard to the Jefferson County proposal, the Department of Health and Human Services is unable to find the 900 acre lease.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 499**

**Motion:** **SEN. THOMAS** moved that **HB 499 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

**SEN. BROOKE** expressed concern about the Ethnic Coordinator position being connected to the Human Rights Commission. There have been significant changes with the Commission being moved to the Department of Labor and the budget is not settled. The idea for the position itself is good, but the structure into which the position would be added must be considered. She is reluctant to

add any more changes to the Human Rights Commission at this time. She is very hesitant to support the motion.

**SEN. MESAROS** opposed the motion. He stated he agrees with the intent of the legislation, but does not like the impact it would have on the budget. Also, a more appropriate approach would be to expand the Coordinator of Indian Affairs position in the Governor's Office. The Ethnic Coordinator position should cover the state and not be located in just one place.

**SEN. GAGE** stated he would also like to see the position coordinated with the Coordinator of Indian Affairs. He has had considerable experience with Indian Affairs and has found that such positions actually create a wedge rather than solve problems.

**SEN. THOMAS** stated the bill has good, solid merit.

**CHAIRMAN HARGROVE** commented that the Human Rights Commission is currently being macro-managed rather than micro-managed, and the instruction to add an Ethnic Coordinator position might not be well received.

He recalled that when he was in the military in Texas, there were still separate water fountains and restaurants for minorities. The military, however, did not have such divisions; the military was, and hopefully still is, colorblind. The military has been a way for minority people to find their way out of a difficult upbringing. These are facts of which he is very proud. He stated that he opposes the bill.

**SEN. BROOKE** stated there is a large Russian immigrant population in Missoula. Missoula has local groups that deal with the issues raised in the bill. The primary needs of the local groups are staff and money. It doesn't seem that either would be provided by the bill.

**Vote:** The motion **FAILED** with **SEN. THOMAS** and **SEN. WILSON** in favor.

**Motion/Vote:** **SEN. MESAROS** moved that **HB 499 BE TABLED**. The motion **CARRIED** with **SEN. THOMAS** and **SEN. WILSON** **OPPOSED**.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:25

  
SEN. DON HARGROVE, Chairman

  
MARY MORRIS, Secretary

  
ELAINE BENEDICT, Transcriber

DH/EMB