

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
51ST LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON RULES

Call to Order: By Chairman Harper, on April 14, 1989 at 2:30 PM.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Hal Harper, Rep. John Vincent, Rep. Kelly Addy, Rep. Jerry Driscoll, Rep. Joe Quillici, Rep. Tom Hannah, Rep. John Mercer

Members Absent: Rep. Dave Brown, Rep. Dennis Iverson, Rep. Jack Ramirez

ORDER OF BUSINESS

HEARING OF SJR 10: A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA TO AMEND THE JOINT RULES GOVERNING THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 51ST LEGISLATURE TO ALLOW A CONFERENCE COMMITTEE TO AMEND A DISPUTED AMENDMENT; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

Senator Mike Halligan, sponsor of SJR 10, gave opening testimony. He explained he believes there is a problem, because the present rules do not allow adjustment of amendments by conference committees. The only action available to the House and Senate is rejection of the conference committee report and appointment of a free conference committee, which then gives access to the entire bill and in many cases is not desirable.

Rep. Mercer's question to Halligan: Couldn't you amend amendments in a free conference committee? Do we need this change? Rep. Halligan: Answer is "yes" to both questions.

EXECUTIVE ACTION:

Rep. Vincent: We once talked about three types of conference committees. I wouldn't as Speaker want to give up a plain conference committee. I want to keep the body of the bill intact and complete in a free committee.

Rep. Addy: The amendment of an amendments could radically change a bill in a regular conference committee. Could we have the limits of a committee stated in a motion?

Rep. Harper: Perhaps we should consider a third level committee, to amend the bill amendment.

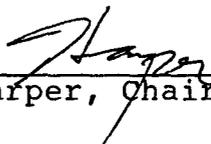
Rep. Vincent: I would like to research Mason's to see if writing into the rules a 3rd tier committee to amend disputed amendments, or giving this power to a regular conference

committee by motion, is recommended. I will be glad to have the Chief Clerk take a look at this. I guess I really don't want to change the rules at this time, so late in the session.

Rep. Mercer: I recommend the 3rd tier suggestion.

MOTION BY REP. HARPER: SJR 10 be tabled. MOTION PASSED, by unanimous voice vote.

Adjournment at 3:05 PM.



Hal Harper, Chairman

HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL

DATE: 4-14-89

ROOM: 420

TIME: 2:30 PM

	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED	
<u>HARPER, Hal (D), Chairman</u>	✓			
<u>VINCENT, John (D), Vice Chair</u>	✓			
<u>ADDY, Kelly (D)</u>	✓			
<u>BROWN, Dave (D)</u>		✓		
<u>DRISCOLL, Jerry, (D)</u>	✓			
<u>QUILICI, Joe (D)</u>	✓			
<u>HANNAH, Tom (R)</u>	✓			
<u>IVERSON, Dennis (R)</u>		✓		
<u>MERCER, John (R)</u>	✓			
<u>RAMIREZ, Jack (R)</u>		✓		