

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
57th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION**

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN DON HARGROVE**, on January 16, 2001 at 10:00 A.M., in Room 335 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Don Hargrove, Chairman (R)
Sen. John C. Bohlinger, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Edward Butcher (R)
Sen. Pete Ekegren (R)
Sen. Jim Elliott (D)
Sen. Eve Franklin (D)
Sen. Ken Toole (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Fred Thomas (R)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Lynette Brown, Committee Secretary
David Niss, Legislative Branch

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

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) SB 184, SB 183, SB 123 & Date(s) Posted:1-10-01

Executive Action:

HEARING ON SB 184

Sponsor: SEN. JOHN COBB, SD 25, Augusta

Proponents: Jan Lombardi, Prevention Resource Center

Opponents: None

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 4}

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SEN. JOHN COBB, SD 25, Augusta, said the purpose of this bill listed on lines 23-25 is to extend membership. The membership met to set goals and performance indicators for the various agencies.

Proponents' Testimony:

Jan Lombardi, Prevention Resource Center, expressed support for this bill.

Opponents: None**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

SEN. EVE FRANKLIN asked what the positive outcomes from the inter-agency coordinating council have been? **Jan Lombardi** responded that the inter-agency has five goals; (1) risk behavior (2) reduction of teen pregnancy, (3) child abuse, (4) school drop-out, and (5) violence and crime. The agency has tried to create bench-marks to determine success.

SEN. DON HARGROVE asked **Jan Lombardi** if they are seeing success in their programs? **Ms. Lombardi** stated that the different agencies are now speaking the same languages, and they have better goals and objectives.

SEN. HARGROVE asked **Jan Lombardi** if any of the directors attend the meetings? She responded that, yes, they do and if the director cannot be at the meeting, there is an alternate from the agency who will attend. They also meet in between the council.

Closing by Sponsor:

SEN. JOHN COBB closed SB 184.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 10}

HEARING ON SB 183

Sponsor: SEN. JOHN COBB, SD 25, Augusta

Proponents: Steven Ertelt, Montana Right to Life
Darrell Holzer, Montana State AFL-CIO

Opponents:

Roberta Cross Guns, Common Cause
David Ponder, Montana PIRG
Mary Jo Olson, League of Women Voters of Montana
Mike Fellows, WTLF

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SEN. JOHN COBB, SD 25, Augusta, said this bill allows a candidate to accept contributions from any source up to the amount that an opponent has received from the opponent's own resources of \$5,000 or more; requiring campaign finance reports within 48 hours of any contributions of \$100 or more made by a candidate to the candidate's own campaign. **SEN. COBB** said he wants an amendment stating if it is district court or state-wide race, then the limit would be \$16,000.

Proponents' Testimony:

Steven Ertelt, Montana Right to Life, said this bill is a fairness issue.

Darrell Holzer, Montana State AFL-CIO, offered support for this bill. He said this bill offers opportunity for more citizens to actively pursue elections in Montana.

Opponents' Testimony:

Roberta Cross Guns, Common Cause of Montana, said this bill defeats the purpose of any control over campaign finances. She said expenditures need to be looked at more closely for campaign reform.

David Ponder, Montana PIRG, said this bill creates a loophole in finance law. The Supreme court decision in *Buck vs. Velao* that created this loophole in the law that said states and congress can set low contribution limits, but the legislators cannot set limits on individual contributions to a candidate's own campaign.

Mary Jo Olson, League of Women Voters of Montana, **EXHIBIT(sts12a01)** said the organization shares **SEN. COBB's** concerns, but they don't believe this bill addresses those problems appropriately.

Mike Fellows, WTLF, said he can see both sides of this bill.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

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SEN. ED BUTCHER asked **SEN. COBB** to explain the \$5,000 limit.

SEN. COBB said the person running for office can put \$5,000 of his/her personal money into the campaign. At that time, their opponent's campaign donation limit is raised to \$5,000. The opponent can raise this \$5,000 by campaign donations in the same manner as other campaign money raised.

SEN. JIM ELLIOTT asked **Linda Vaughey** comment on the administration of this bill. She stated it would be very workable.

SEN. DON HARGROVE asked **Commissioner Vaughey** what the limits on corporate contributions to individual candidates are? **Ms. Voughey** replied that corporations cannot contribute to individual candidates. Corporate contributions are limited to ballot issues.

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 17}

Closing by Sponsor: **SEN. JOHN COBB** closed SB 183. He said there is a loophole out there and this bill would help fix that.

HEARING ON SB 123

Sponsor: **SEN. JOHN BOHLINGER, SD 7, Billings**

Proponents:

Verner Bertelsen, Montana Senior Citizens
Archie Nunn, Montana Senior Citizens
John Cadby, Lobbyist

Opponents: **Lorna Karn, Montana Farm Bureau**

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 21}

{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0}

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SEN. JOHN BOHLINGER, SD 7, Billings, EXHIBIT(sts12a02) opened SB 123.

{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 11}

Proponents' Testimony:

Verner Bertelson, Montana Senior Citizens, stated his organization is in support of this bill. He said it is important for the legislature to meet every year as compared to every two years.

Archie Nunn, Montana Senior Citizens, said he is in support of the concept of this bill. Government is not a part-time job he said. **Mr. Nunn** stated there are many issues that come up that need the attention of the legislature and cannot wait for two years to be dealt with.

John Cadby, former lobbyist, said it is better to meet every year to deal with current issues as they come up instead of waiting for two years. He also said as a businessman, it would be more convenient to take time off from your business for a shorter period of time every year instead of for four months every other year.

Opponents' Testimony:

Lorna Karn, Montana Farm Bureau, said her organization is concerned about lines nineteen and twenty-two in this bill. She was in favor of taking care of the bills during the session and not carrying any bills over to the next session unless there is a two-thirds vote. **Ms. Karn** expressed concern about line twenty-two stating the legislature is limited to the current 90 days unless passed by a two-thirds vote by the legislature.

Mike Fellows, MTLP, expressed support for this bill.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

SEN. DON HARGROVE asked **SEN. BOHLINGER** if special sessions would be treated the same as now? **SEN. BOHLINGER** replied that, yes, the special sessions would remain the same. **SEN. HARGROVE** asked if **SEN. BOHLINGER** had considered the interim committee structure and how this bill would affect that? **SEN. BOHLINGER** replied that he hoped some interim committee work could be done during the annual session.

{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0}

SEN. ED BUTCHER asked **SEN. BOHLINGER** if the Appropriations committee could finish their business in 30 days? **SEN. BOHLINGER**

stated that he had spoken to **REP. LEWIS**, who has helped for governor prepare a budget for many year, and **Clayton Schenck, Legislative Fiscal Analyst** about a time scale for preparing a budget. Both **REP. LEWIS** and **Clayton Schenck** said that it is definitely possible to prepare a budget, the bill and its narrative.

Closing by Sponsor: **SEN. JOHN BOHLINGER** closed SB 123. He said this bill would be of benefit to the citizens of Montana.

EXHIBIT(sts12a03) The committee discussed a hand-out (**S30-70**) pertaining to Committee Proxy Voting.

Vote: **SEN. ED BUTCHER** made a Motion that **S30-70 COMMITTEE PROXY VOTING** for this committee to include 24 hours **DO PASS**. Motion carried unanimously.

David Niss explained LC15-16. This bill states how to assign bills to the various committees. **SEN. HARGROVE** asked if the committee would like to submit this draft as a committee bill?

Motion/Vote: **SEN. ELLIOTT** moved that **LC15-16 BE SUBMITTED AS A COMMITTEE BILL DO PASS**. Motion carried unanimously.

SEN. EVE FRANKLIN said she will sponsor **LC15-16**.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:00 A.M.

SEN. DON HARGROVE, Chairman

LYNETTE BROWN, Secretary

DH/LB

EXHIBIT (sts12aad)