

MINUTES

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
58th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN KARL WAITSCHIES**, on March 10, 2003 at
3 P.M., in Room 472 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Karl Waitschies, Chairman (R)
Rep. Sylvia Bookout-Reinicke, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Dave Gallik, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Bob Bergren (D)
Rep. Ronald Devlin (R)
Rep. George Golie (D)
Rep. Jim Keane (D)
Rep. Bernie Olson (R)
Rep. Allen Rome (R)
Rep. Frank Smith (D)
Rep. Donald Steinbeisser (R)
Rep. Bill Wilson (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Joe Balyeat (R)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Leanne Kurtz, Legislative Branch
Pati O'Reilly, Committee Secretary

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

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 83, SB 118, 3/6/2003
Executive Action:

HEARING ON SB 83

Sponsor: SENATOR DAN MCGEE, SD 11

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SENATOR MCGEE explained that he is carrying this bill at the request of the Montana Department of Transportation. This bill allows the Department to use the design built process for highway projects by spending \$20,000,000 on three projects.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 5.4}

Proponents' Testimony:

MR. DAVE GALT, Director of Montana Department of Transportation, testified the bill was the result of listening to all parties concerned and it will give us the monies to test this method.

EXHIBIT (trh50a01)

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 5.4 - 8.3}

Cary Hegreberg, Montana Contractors Association. Mr. Hegreberg was a member of the council who designed the plan and guidelines for this test project. He said, "Our association initially opposed this method because it does not allow for the lowest bid, however after reviewing projects in other states that used this method we agree that this pilot project is a good idea."

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 8.3 - 10.3}

Jay Skoog, American Council of Engineering Companies of Montana, urges a do pass on this bill.

Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 10.3 - 11.2

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REPRESENTATIVES BOOKOUT-REINICKE, DEVLIN, ROME, GALLIK, OLSON, KEANE and WAITSCHIES, questioned Mr. Galt and Tim Riordan.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 11.2 - 30}

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 15.8}

Closing by Sponsor:

SENATOR McGEE closed **SB 83** with a summary of the advantages of this type of bidding. **REP. WAITSCHIES**, will carry the bill on the house floor if it is passed out of committee.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 15.8 - 21.1}

HEARING ON SB 118

Sponsor: **SENATOR BOB DePRATU, SD 40.**

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SENATOR DePRATU introduced **SB 118**. This bill is a revision of the license plate laws. Last session we passed a law allowing charity plates for various organizations. This bill delays the redesign of our current plates until 2006 and also changing the way the speciality plate fee is collected. It allows the County Treasurer to collect the fee. The bill also changes the placement of the front license plate. It can be fastened anywhere on the front of the vehicle.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 21.1 - 30}

Proponents' Testimony:

Brenda Nordlund, Department of Justice, Motor Vehicle Division, explained the changes requested by the Department.
EXHIBIT (trh50a02)

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 13.3}

Al Christopersen, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. He explained how successful the speciality plate has been for his organization.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 13.3 - 17.2}

Dean Roberts, Administrator Montana Motor Vehicle Division, explained how the license plates are made, who manufactures them, the cost of making the plates and the need to set a minimum be sold for any speciality plates.

EXHIBIT (trh50a03)

EXHIBIT (trh50a04)

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 17.2 - 28.2}

Ronda Carpenter, Montana Association of County Treasurers. The County treasurers are in favor of this bill.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 28.2 - 30}

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

Ross Swanson, Montana Department of Corrections. The Department of Corrections has inmates design the plates on a computer.

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 1.1}

Clint Blackwood, Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Program gave a positive report about the monies the speciality plates has generated for his program.

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 1.1 - 2}

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REPRESENTATIVES SMITH, BOOKOUT-REINICKE, GOLIE, ROME AND WAITSCHIES questioned Brenda Nordlund about the fee increases and the change in distribution of these fees.

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 2 - 19.5}

Closing by Sponsor:

SENATOR DePRATU closed by asking the committee to support this bill.

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 19.5 - 20.6}

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:10 P.M.

REP. KARL WAITSCHIES, Chairman

PATI O'REILLY, Secretary

KW/PO

EXHIBIT (*trh50aad*)