

BUSINESS REPORT

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

HOUSE STATE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2009

Time: 8:00 am

Place: Capitol

Room: 455

BILLS and RESOLUTIONS HEARD:

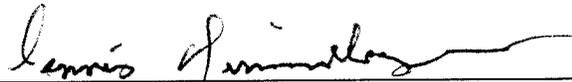
Prefix (HB, HR, HJR, SB, SR, or SJR) and number. Add Postponed (PP) when appropriate:

HB 142, HB 147, HB 164, HB 170, HB 184

EXECUTIVE ACTION TAKEN:

Prefix (HB, HR, HJR, SB, SR, or SJR) and number. Enter P(pass) F(failed) DPAA (do pass as amended) BC(be concurred in) BCAA (be concurred in as amended):

COMMENTS:



REP. Dennis Himmelberger, Chairman

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Roll Call
State Administration COMMITTEE

DATE: Jan. 20, 2000

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT/ EXCUSED</u>
Representative O'Hara	✓	
Representative Dickenson	✓	
Representative Bean	✓	
Representative Belcourt	✓	
Representative Boniek	✓	
Representative Brown	✓	
Representative Caferro	✓	
Representative Calf Boss Ribs	✓	
Representative Hands	✓	
Representative Hendrick	✓	
Representative Ingraham	✓	
Representative MacLaren	✓	
Representative Malek	✓	
Representative Phillips	✓	
Representative Van Dyk	✓	
Representative Washburn	✓	
Representative Wilmer	✓	
Chairman Himmelberger	✓	

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



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HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0802

MEMORANDUM

To: Representative Vincent
Representative Himmelberger, Chair
Members of the State Administration Committee

From: *David Ewer* David Ewer, Budget Director

Re: Opposition to HB 164, Extend fire suppression committee

Date: January 20, 2009

Dear Representative Vincent and members of the committee: Given budget constraints, I respectfully go on record as opposing HB 164 for fiscal reasons. My opposition is not based on any intrinsic merits of HB 164.

The Executive Budget currently has a structural surplus, however, unlike the 2007 Session, which had over \$80 million in projected revenues over the Administration's ongoing general fund expenditure proposals, the current budget is very tight. While the Administration insisted on a spending cap to preserve the structural surplus of \$80 million, the modification or rejections of some Administration proposals created substantial fiscal 'space' for other legislative priorities.

The Schweitzer Administration fully understands and respects the legislative process and a legislator's prerogative to achieve any legislation he or she so desires. Given that it is very early in the 2009 session and this bill's hearing date, it is certain that the legislature will take later action that will either free up or additionally constrain budget capacity. But again, the importance of maintaining a basic level of public safety, health, and education service levels require this opposition.

This letter is intended to benefit, not impede communications. I am eager for any feed back as to how we can maximize effective communications.