

BUSINESS & LABOREXHIBIT NO. 6DATE 1-26-11BILL NO. SB 178

January 26, 2011

SB178: Constitutional amendment initiative to opt out of daylight saving time.

Introduced by T. Murphy

I cannot believe this issue is being run up the flagpole again this session. It was brought up in 1999, 2003, 2009, and now again.

The 1999 and 2003 bills included "the use of daylight saving time is inconvenient in that it requires clock time changes twice in a calendar year" and "a decision by Montana to use only mountain standard time would be compatible with Montana's border states because there would be only a 1-hour time difference for one-half of the year between most border states and Montana if Montana did not participate in daylight saving time" as justification for Montana to use Mountain Standard Time all year.

Where we live in NE Montana, we're lucky if we only have to reset the clocks twice a week, so twice a year is no big deal. And, it is definitely less confusing to be an hour different from North Dakota all year rather than half the year.

Last session, a reason was advanced to the effect that a student had to take medication at a certain time. After thinking about that, if a student is in Math class at 9:00am on Friday, wouldn't the student be in Math class at 9:00am on Monday after the time change? There shouldn't be any different teachers, rooms, etc.

Title 15, Chapter 6 of the United States Code deals with this issue. Part of this statute states that "It is the policy of the United States to promote the adoption and observance of uniform time within the standard time zones...". It does make provision for a State, in its entirety (or by time zone in the case where a State has more than one time zone), to opt out of Daylight Saving Time, but I feel the intent is clear that all States cooperate in the uniform observance of time.

The 2010 census revealed a US population of 308,745,538. Montana came in at 989,415, which is .3% of the total population. The only two states that currently do not observe daylight saving time are Arizona (6,392,017 or 2.07%) and Hawaii (1,380,301 or .45%). They make up 2.5% of the population.

According to an article on [timeanddate.com](http://www.timeanddate.com) (<http://www.timeanddate.com/time/us/arizona-no-dst.html>), Arizona has not observed daylight saving time since 1967.

Hawaii doesn't need DST as their day length doesn't vary appreciably throughout the year and they are close to the western boundary of their time zone.

Twice a year, we all grouse about the time change, but then again, we grouse about the rain, the drought, the heat, the cold, the snow, the lack of snow, etc. No matter what happens, someone will complain about it while others embrace it.

Where is the fiscal note for this bill? Who will pay for filing, document preparation, and signature gathering? Computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices have atomic clocks or code in a microchip that adjusts for the time changes. Who will pay for programming changes, upgrades to, and/or replacement of all these devices? As a taxpayer, I feel we have already spent more than enough time and money on this issue over the last decade. And, I think the State has much bigger and much more important fish to fry in the next few weeks.

When I was getting my Master's degree at Utah State, I made a few comments to my Mormon neighbors that I didn't care for the beer sales policy. They politely suggested that if I didn't like it, I didn't have to live there. So, I would make the same suggestion to the few folks who don't want to set their clocks twice a year...that they can move to Arizona or Hawaii.

Montanans are an independent, free thinking group, but on the issue of daylight saving time, I feel we should stay in the mainstream and conform to what 97% of the rest of the country is doing.

For these reasons, I oppose SB 178 and ask the members of the committee to vote NO.

Thank you,
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