

MINUTES

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
56th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**JOINT APPROP SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND
TRANSPORTATION**

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN LILA TAYLOR**, on January 20, 1999 at 8:00 A.M., in Room 402 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Lila Taylor, Chairman (R)
Sen. Mike Taylor, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Ken Mesaros (R)
Rep. Ray Peck (D)
Rep. Joe Quilici (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Eve Franklin (D)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Lynn Daily, Committee Secretary
Mary Beth Linder, OBPP
Amy Sassano, OBPP
Jim Turner, Legislative Fiscal Branch

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

Committee Business Summary:

Executive Action:
Secretary of State Budget

EXHIBIT (jgh15a01): Testimony from Secretary of State Mike Cooney

Angela Fultz, Secretary of state office speaks for the budget.

EXHIBIT (jgh15a02): Montana Secretary of State Presentation to the 1999 Legislature.

CI-75 will impact them with the possible cost of another election because they are required to put out a voter information pamphlet.

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ISD has caused them problems in the past. By law they are required to send out the Farm bill, which is copy of all the liens that a lot of financial institutions get. ISD computers were down on Friday and couldn't print it out and were still down on Tuesday. They have found that National Information Consortium(NIT)has made other arrangements for them when things go wrong.

With CI-75, fees commensurate with costs may be illegal.

Questions From Members and Responses

SEN. TAYLOR asks who has the contract for support of their computer system. **Angela Fultz** says that in 1997 they broke away from ISD and went out the National Information Consortium. **REP. QUILICI** asks if this is associated with MTPRRIME. **Mrs. Fultz** says that this is solely for their office. They can now set a fixed time frame and price. It has been an advantage to go out of the state government. The company has given them an imaging component for free. Right now it is very paper intensive. Imaging would take a picture and store it in data bank. **Mr. Cooney** states that the bulk of their services are provided for people outside of and there is not a lot of interagency interactions.

REP. PECK asks if they are comfortable not taking money from the General Fund. **Mr. Cooney** says that they have been able to operate their office on their fees with no harm. They can be more responsive to their customers without General Fund Money and their fees are probably the lowest in the nation.
{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0 - 30.7}

REP. PECK asks how many exempt employees they have. **Mrs. Fultz** says that they have ten.

SEN. TAYLOR note the negative fund on page A-48. **Gary Managhan** says that this comes from long term projects. This budget reflects and increase in operations, they do have cash but it is not necessarily fund balanced.

SEN. TAYLOR asks about the cost of the changing computers. **Mr. Managhan** says that it is in the range of \$80,000 to \$1 Million. There is a lot of data that needs to be reentered.
{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0 - 28}

SEN. TAYLOR asks how many FTEs they have. **Mrs. Fultz** says that there are 43.5 but only about 40 get filled. **SEN. TAYLOR** then a

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asks why there is such a large turnover rate. **Mrs. Fultz** says that some have retired and that when people are given work in their office they are expected to get done.

REP. QUILICI asks Mrs. Fultz to go over the funding for UCC. **Mrs. Fultz** states that they have saved money. They will not put the agency in to a situation where they will not be able to pay.

SEN. TAYLOR says that there are four areas that your costs have risen the greatest. They are rent, maintenance, ISD charges and what else. **Mrs. Fultz** says that also included in that are communication costs.

Jim Gillett, Legislative Audit Division, speaks about what fees commensurate with costs means.

They can be dealt with in a number of ways. When they begin an analysis first they look at the source of the authorization of fees. In the case of the Secretary of State, they have some set in laws but may also have a special fee confined by law. The legislature sets rates but they may also set rate guidelines. An agency is required to do an analysis by law. If what they do appears to be reasonable that they don't question it.

Questions From Members and Responses

SEN. TAYLOR asks Lois Menzies who oversees MTPRRIME. **Mrs. Menzies** says they have a number of people who do this. They have contracted an outside firm and they also have internal controls which is made up of a steering committee that meets once a month. *{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0 - 30.5}*

SEN. TAYLOR asks about the letter that the legislators receive that says someone has been audited. **Mr. Gillett** says that they Gage Report contains that information. They do get a good response for the information.

Commissioner of Political Practices Budget

Motion/Vote: **SEN. TAYLOR** moved **BASE FOR COMMISSIONER OF POLITICAL PRACTICES (PG A-53)**. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion/Vote: **SEN. TAYLOR** moved **STATE WIDE ADJUSTMENT WITH NEW NUMBERS OF \$31,599 AND \$30,634 PERSONAL SERVICES**. Motion carried unanimously.

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Motion: REP. QUILICI moved DP 1 - COMPUTER EQUIPMENT AND SUPPORT.

Discussion: **EXHIBIT(jgh15a03):** Memo from Amy Sassano
SEN. TAYLOR asks what the hourly breakdown of the \$10,560 that ISD will charge for their services. **Dulcy Hubbert** says they have a standard contract with ISD. They charge \$44 per hour so this just an estimate, may be less. **REP. QUILICI** asks what they will do if they don't go with this scenario. **Mrs. Hubbert** says they will need to hire an FTE and they are not sure they would have enough work or funds for that.

SEN. TAYLOR would like to postpone to see if they can maybe get better computers that will last longer.

Motion: REP. QUILICI moved WITHDRAW MOTION WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT THE AGENCY WILL GET TOGETHER WITH ISD TO GET A SYSTEM THAT IS COMPATIBLE.

{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0 - 30.5}

Motion/Vote: SEN. TAYLOR moved LEGAL EXPENSES (PG A-55) TO REDUCE THE BASE TO \$19,500 EACH YEAR AND RESTRICTED ACCOUNT TO \$148,000 IN THE BIENNIUM. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: SEN. TAYLOR moved DP 2 - CONSULTING AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES - FOR \$2500.

Substitute Motion/Vote: REP. PECK made a substitute motion DP 1 FOR \$5600. Substitute motion failed 3-3 with Franklin, Peck, and Quilici voting aye.

Motion/Vote: SEN. TAYLOR moved FOR \$2500. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: SEN. TAYLOR moved DP 18 - PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO - GF.

EXHIBIT(jgh15a04): Proposed Amendments of ISD Budget

Discussion: CHAIRMAN TAYLOR asks why there were increase by \$40,000 and now are increasing by \$108,000. **Tony Herbert** says they had a bill they were going to introduce that was going to cover these costs. They realized that they needed more time to develop the plan.

{Tape : 3; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0 - 30.3}

SEN. MESAROS asks what the cost of the new radios will be. **Mr. Herbert** states they cost \$2000 each but they are hoping that by the time the program is ready the cost will decrease to \$1500.

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR asks how much the federal government has contributed. **Mr. Herbert** says that it has been a totally a state

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initiative and that the Montana Power Company (MPC) has shared the cost of \$564,000 in consulting fees.

SEN. TAYLOR asks why the bill was not carried. **Mr. Herbert** said the thing they lacked was time. **Mrs. Menzies** said they had a meeting last week and they did not have everyone on board. There are concerns among the local government about ownership and the active design of the system.

REP. QUILICI says he wants to hold off until they can talk to the local governments.

Vote: Motion **carried 4-1 with Quilici voting no.** No vote from Franklin.

{Tape : 3; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0 - 30.5}

Motion/Vote: **SEN. TAYLOR** moved **BASE FOR ISD (PG A-163)**. Motion **carried unanimously.**

Jim Turner states that they could do this in one motion to accept DP 19 with numbers such that General Fund is \$60,000 per year and Federal fund is \$750,000.

Motion/Vote: **REP. QUILICI** so **MOVES DP 19 - GIS CADASTRAL - HB2 AS STATED BY JIM TURNER ABOVE.** Motion **carried 5 to 0 with no vote from Peck.**

Motion: **REP. QUILICI** moved **DP 19 - GIS CADASTRAL - HB2.**

Discussion: **SEN. TAYLOR** asks is if any counties are sharing funds. **Mr. Herbert** says that the counties are actively involved.

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR asks if other agencies have funding in their budgets for this. **Mr. Herbert** says that Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; Agriculture and MDT do have money. Department of Revenue doesn't have a GIS system so this would be their system.

Motion/Vote: **SEN. TAYLOR** moved **STATEWIDE PRESENT LAW (PG A-164)**. Motion **carried unanimously.**

EXHIBIT (jgh15a05)

{Tape : 4; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0 - 28}

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:50 A.M.

REP. LILA TAYLOR, Chairman

LYNN DAILY, Secretary

LT/LD

EXHIBIT (jgh15aad)