

Council Senate Members

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B.F. "CHRIS" CHRISTIAENS
MACK COLE
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KARL OHS
JOHN A. MERCER
BILLIE I. KRENZLER
PAUL SLITER

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MINUTES

January 19, 1999
State Capitol

Room 410
Helena, Montana

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed. Exhibits are on file in the offices of the Legislative Services Division.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Sen. B.F. "Chris" Christiaens
Sen. Tom Beck
Sen. Mack Cole
Sen. Steve Doherty
Rep. Emily Swanson
Rep. William Menahan
Rep. Billie I. Krenzler
Rep. Paul Sliter

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Sen. Debbie Shea
Sen. Bruce Crippen
Rep. Karl Ohs
Rep. John A. Mercer

STAFF PRESENT

Robert B. Person, Executive Director
Dave Bohyer, Director, Research Division
Ellen Garrity, Secretary

COMMITTEE ACTION

- * Elected Rep. Menahan for Chairman and Sen. Beck for vice-chairman.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5 p.m. by Acting Chairman Christiaens. A quorum was present.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Rep. Sliter nominated Rep. Menahan for Chairman. Sen. Cole moved to cast a unanimous ballot for Rep. Menahan for chairman. The motion passed.

Rep. Krenzler nominated Sen. Beck for vice-chairman. Rep. Menahan moved to elect Sen. Beck for vice-chairman by unanimous ballot. The motion passed.

ADOPT COUNCIL RULES

Rep. Menahan moved to adopt the Council Rules previously presented by staff. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Legislative Council legislation

Mr. Person distributed a status report of Council legislation, Attachment #1.

Regarding SB 11 to revise interim committee structure and process, Rep. Menahan said veterans want a subcommittee to deal with their benefits.

Sen. Cole said veterans' issues can probably be included in a subcommittee of the administration standing committee.

Council role in legislative branch budget

Mr. Person said Legislative Services budget hearing will be February 11 and 12. The Council requested an informational meeting before the hearing for staff to explain the budget to new Council members.

Rep. Swanson said, as a new member, she wants to know more about the interim committee structure proposed in SB 11.

A Council meeting will be scheduled before February 11th.

Continue Council Subcommittees

Rep. Menahan said this item will be taken care of at the next meeting when all Council members are present.

Preliminary View of Biennial Schedule

Mr. Person said he will retire before the 2001 Legislative Session. The Council will discuss Mr. Person's replacement at a future meeting.

Sen. Christiaens asked about the traditional June retreat at Yellow Bay.

Mr. Person suggested a retreat closer to Helena, but away from the Capitol, so staff can be available to participate.

Rep. Menahan said the Council had productive meetings at Yellow Bay.

This matter will be discussed at a future meeting.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

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