

MINUTES

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

COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION

Call to Order: By **VICE CHAIRMAN DEE BROWN**, on January 31, 2003
at 8 A.M., in Room 455 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Dee Brown, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Larry Jent, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Norman Ballantyne (D)
Rep. Arlene Becker (D)
Rep. Sue Dickenson (D)
Rep. Carol Gibson (D)
Rep. Daniel S. Hurwitz (R)
Rep. Hal Jacobson (D)
Rep. Larry Lehman (R)
Rep. Ralph Lenhart (D)
Rep. Alan Olson (R)
Rep. Bernie Olson (R)
Rep. Don Roberts (R)
Rep. Clarice Schrupf (R)
Rep. Frank Smith (D)
Rep. Pat Wagman (R)
Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)
Rep. Cindy Younkin (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Debby Barrett, Chairman (R)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Sheri Heffelfinger, Legislative Branch
Joan Reiman, Committee Secretary

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

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 252, 1/21/2003; HB 253,
1/21/2003; HB 435, 1/27/2003
Executive Action: None

HEARING ON HB 252

Sponsor: REP. DONALD HEDGES, HD 97, Antelope

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. HEDGES said this is a straightforward bill to identify areas which have campaign reporting requirements, and to separate out districts which have elected offices where they do not have to follow campaign law. Section 3 addresses these changes. He gave a fact sheet.

EXHIBIT (sth21a01)

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor: REP. HEDGES closed.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 5}

HEARING ON HB 253

Sponsor: REP. DONALD HEDGES, HD 97, Antelope

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. HEDGES said this bill adds internet websites into campaign finance reporting requirements. A disclaimer must appear, "Paid for by (the name of the person funding it)." He gave a fact sheet on the bill.

EXHIBIT (sth21a02)

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

Jim Schier, Attorney General's office, Legal Counsel to
Commissioner of Political Practices

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REP. DICKENSON asked how it would work. **The sponsor** said websites are paid for, and there is a space at the bottom stating who brought. **VICE-CHAIR BROWN** asked, "If the party has a web site and your name is listed, does it still need a disclaimer?"

REP. HEDGES said it depends on what the site does. If it is merely an address relocater, then it does not. If it is proposing for or against candidates, or advocating a party plank, then it does need a disclaimer.

REP. HURWITZ asked what happens if they should have a disclaimer and they do not. **REP. HEDGES** said statute is clear on this; there are charges and fines. **VICE-CHAIR BROWN** asked **Mr. Schier**, who replied that if a website did not include the required disclaimer, the Commissioner would contact them to tell them to comply. If a formal complaint is made, civil action in District Court could result in the maximum fine of three times the amount of the unlawful expenditure.

Closing by Sponsor: Sponsor closed.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 5 - 12}

HEARING ON HB 435

Sponsor: **REP. JOHN SINRUD, HD 31**

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. SINRUD said Line 3 speaks to the essence of the bill concerning conduct of legislators. No fee will be allowed for speaking to state or local governments. He checked with the Rules Commissioner who was not clear on this. To clarify, we may need an amendment to establish that it is only within the state that they may not accept fees, and speaking out of state for fees is allowed.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REP. JENT proposed amendment language and the sponsor agreed.

VICE-CHAIR BROWN asked Ms. Heffelfinger to draft it.

Closing by Sponsor: Sponsor closed

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 12 - 16.7}

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ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 8:17 A.M.

REP. DEBBY BARRETT, Chairman

JOAN REIMAN, Secretary

DB/JR

EXHIBIT (sth21aad)