

Approved: Al Ramirez 3-4-93
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Al Ramirez at 1:30 p.m. on February 24, 1993 in Room 531-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Bogina - Excused

Committee staff present: Julian Efird, Legislative Research Department

Fred Carman, Revisor of Statutes
Jackie Breymeyer, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Senator Bond, Sponsor, SB 359

Others attending: See attached list

Chairman Ramirez called the meeting to order and directed the committee's attention to **SB 359** - relating to introduction of bills. The Chairman welcomed Senator Bond to the committee.

Senator Bond stated that **SB 359** is a very simple bill, but involves the entire legislative process. It has appeared to the Senator as he has sat through and chaired committees, that all too often the agencies do not bring their bills in until the second, third or fourth week of the session, or even thereafter. This bill is to give the agencies notice that the Legislature is in fact, coming on the second Monday of each January and that they should get their Legislative packets prepared before that time. A number of agencies should be given credit for getting together for discussion on the package of bills, and how many bills will be introduced. Everything is in place by the time the session convenes. Agencies have several months to prepare their packets. Many of these bills could be handled at the beginning of session in an orderly fashion, making time for the more controversial and laborious issues that will face the Legislature. Agencies that wait until the last minute to get bills introduced are doing themselves a disservice. This bill is a major notice to agencies of state government.

The chairman stated that he had heard many of his colleagues state the same thing.

Several pros and cons of the bill were expressed by committee members.

Senator Bond stated he was not talking about people who don't realize the time element of the process, such as someone who might want their association to introduce legislation, but these agencies who should and do know the Legislative process, have staff to prepare the bills and know where the Revisor's office is.

Senator Bond ended his remarks by stating he does not want to shut out the public, but wants to say that government ought to know when government is doing business.

The Chairman thanked the Senator and stated the hearing closed on **SB 359** and asked for a motion on a bill introduction relating to the constitutional officers of the executive department of the state.

Senator Lee moved the introduction of the bill. Senator Gooch gave a second to the motion. The motion carried.

The Chairman directed the committee's attention to **SB 128**, state health care benefits program. An amendment was passed out from Brad Avery, KAPE.

The Chairman stated that Senator Feleciano, Senator Harris and he had met with the Secretary of Administration, Susan Seltsam on **SB 127** and **SB 128** and after discussion decided not to deal with these two bills, but Mr. Avery has come back with an amendment for **SB 128** and the Chairman told him that it would be considered. The Chairman read from the amendment the underlined language, "Such payments will continue for six months following the exhaustion of sick and annual leave or until the end of the proceeding state fiscal year, whichever is greater."

The words, "or other circumstances" were discussed as well as the number of employees and the cost that would be involved. After further discussion, Senator Feleciano moved the adoption of the language with the deletion of the words 'or other circumstances' and adding, after the word 'or' the word, 'illness'. Senator Papay gave a second to the motion. The motion carried.

Senator Feleciano recommended passage of **SB 128** favorably as amended. Senator Gooch gave a second to the motion. The motion carried.

Senator Gooch will carry the bill.

The committee turned to **SB 209**, concerning appointments to boards and commissions. The Revisor distributed a balloon containing the amendments. Senator Vidricksen stated that these amendments were needed as discussed in a meeting with Senator Frahm and others.

Senator Lee moved the amendments. Senator Reynolds gave a second to the motion. The motion carried.

In discussion, it was debated whether the Secretary of State's office or Legislative Research was the proper entity to deal with the information. Senator Vidricksen said this was decided on as a compromise among the 16 people at the meeting.

Senator Vidricksen recommended **SB 209** favorably for passage as amended. Senator Lee gave a second to the motion. The motion carried.

Senator Frahm will carry the bill.

The committee directed its attention to **SB 359**, concerning introduction of bills.

Senator Reynolds recommended **SB 359** favorably for passage, with a second by Senator Vidricksen. The motion carried. Senator Feleciano was recorded as voting "no".

Senator Gooch moved the to approve. the February 16-17-18 & 22 minutes, with a second by Senator Reynolds. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

Senate

Gov. Organization

Feb 24, 1995

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