

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

The meeting was called to order by Senator August "Gus" Bogina at
Chairperson

11:00 a.m./p.m./ on January 28, 1986 in room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

Research Department: Ed Ahrens, Robin Hunn
Revisor's Office: Norman Furse
Committee Office: Judy Bromich, Doris Fager

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Robert G. Frey

SB 420 - Duties of State Finance Council

Mr. Furse explained this measure, stating that new subsections 5 and 6 contain the changes in the statute. He reminded the committee that this was a proposal by the Legislative Budget Committee. The bill would allow the State Finance Council to increase limits imposed by legislative act. Mr. Furse commented that the Finance Council can increase limits at the present time by reason of provisos in appropriations bills. SB 420 would change the manner in which appropriations bills are written by deleting "Finance Council" language in future provisos.

Committee members were given the opportunity to question Mr. Furse.

Motion was made by Senator Werts and seconded by Senator Gaines to report SB 420 favorably for passage. The motion carried by roll call vote.

SB 431 - Compensation and Allowances for State Legislators

Mr. Ahrens explained that it was concluded by an interim committee that additional expenses for certain legislative districts would be desirable. He stated that the Research Department determined that Legislative representatives of 14 House districts and 11 Senate Districts would receive the \$100 additional expense allowance; and five Senators would receive the higher allowance. This would affect a total of 30 legislators, and the annual cost would be \$31,500.

Senator Bogina reminded the Committee that Senator Frey proposed amending the contents of SB 431 into an appropriations bill during the 1985 Session of the Legislature, and the amendment was not approved. It was studied during the summer, and was by no means a unanimous recommendation by the interim committee. Senator Bogina continued by stating that some states accept extra mileage vouchers. He explained that the extra allowances would help cover the cost of extra mileage, long distance phone, and motel costs when those with large districts need to spend nights away from home in order to accomodate constituency.

Senator Gaines said he would prefer submitting mileage vouchers and provide payment by the state over a given mileage. He admitted there might be abuse of such a provision.

Senator Gannon discussed the distance between cities in his district. He said he realized this when he took office, but he feels that a bill similar to the one before the committee should pass if people in larger districts are going to be truly represented by their legislators.

Senator Frey appeared in favor of the proposal before the committee. When asked by Senator Bogina if the additional money can be justified, he said

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,

room 123-S, Statehouse, at 11:00 a.m./p.m. on January 28, 1986

SB 431 - Continued

it might be difficult. He said there might be an example of an elected individual who doesn't do a very good job of covering his or her district; however, this could happen at the present time.

When asked by Senator Bogina if figures in subsection (e) of SB 431 are valid, Senator Frey said he felt that his district could be in the \$100 additional compensation category in terms of miles and time consumed. He suggested that the additional \$100 per month would be used up in just two or three trips in his district. He said he could not say if he will be in a position to make more trips, but he felt that reduced travel would be the ultimate effect of not enacting the measure. He added that he will feel more free to make the long trips throughout his district if the measure is enacted.

Senator Gaines asked if Senator Frey thought it would be possible to arbitrarily determine the number of miles beyond which those with large districts would submit vouchers, plus hotel bills. Senator Frey said he thought it was possible, but he had resisted that route for the reason that a lot of paperwork is required.

There was discussion concerning increased allowances for members of Congress by reason of having larger districts. Senator Frey said it was his understanding that some consideration is given to the size of the district. Senator Johnston stated that United States Senators are given a differential, depending upon the size of their states.

No action was taken on SB 431.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Senator Talkington presented a measure requested by judges in the state increasing their compensation. He indicated he had advised them that this would be included with other compensation increases instead of being presented as a separate bill, but they wanted it introduced in spite of that advice. He added that after the bill is introduced, it will be referred back to the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

Motion was made by Senator Feleciano and seconded by Senator Winter that the requested bill be introduced. The motion carried by voice vote.

The Chairman announced that appropriations bills are being introduced, and that subcommittees may begin working as soon as they can arrange their meetings with members of the fiscal staff. He then adjourned the meeting.