

Approved: March 14, 1997  
Carl Dean Holmes <sup>Date</sup>

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FISCAL OVERSIGHT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Carl Holmes at 9:00 a.m. on February 20, 1997 in Room 527-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Barbara Allen - Excused  
Representative Tom Bradley - Excused  
Representative John Edmonds - Excused  
Representative Bob Grant - Excused  
Representative Dennis McKinney - Excused

Committee staff present: Alan Conroy, Legislative Research Department  
Leah Robinson, Legislative Research Department  
Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes  
Pat Talbott, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Gloria M. Timmer, Director of the Budget

Others attending: none

The Fiscal Oversight Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Holmes. The reason for the meeting was to discuss the Fiscal Oversight Committee's bill, HB 2403, which changes the length of time to prepare a fiscal note for a bill from 7 to 10 days.

The bill was requested by Ms. Timmer, Director of the Budget, in order to give the agencies a more reasonable time to reply to the request for fiscal information by the Office of the Budget and to provide an opportunity to request changes in fiscal notes when a bill has been amended. The goal of the Budget Office and the Fiscal Oversight Committee is to supply the fiscal information by the time the bill is heard in committee and to have the time to amend the fiscal note if it is questioned by legislators reviewing the fiscal notes.

Representative Morrison moved to pass the bill out favorably and Representative Carmody seconded the motion.

Upon discussion, Representative Shriver commented that he thought that expanding the time limit from 7 to 10 days would aid in the process of the ability of the agency to respond to the Office of the Budget in a timely manner and that the reason he had challenged several of the fiscal notes was because the agencies had not provided the Office of the Budget with the requested information. Representative Shriver stated that he thought 10 days would be adequate and asked that the committee support this bill.

Chairperson Holmes asked that all in favor of the bill signify by saying aye and the motion carried.

The committee discussed the way in which the members of the Fiscal Oversight Committee challenged the fiscal notes and Ms. Timmer noted that they would be revising the fiscal notes as soon as the information from the agencies was available. Ms. Timmer said that she was meeting with some of the people who challenged the fiscal notes and was explaining what the fiscal note numbers really meant. She stated that things were out of her control until the agencies responded and she did not want to publish information that was not documented or valid.

There was discussion on the way in which the calculations of the fiscal notes are made and on possible thresholds for the larger amounts. Chairperson Holmes commented that the purpose of the committee is to deal with the cost estimates, not the policy issues.

Chairperson Holmes noted that information on the fiscal note is available to the public through the Internet.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

The next meeting is on call of the Chair.

