

Approved: _____
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TAXATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Wagle at 9:00 a.m. on February 25, 2000, in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Rep. Wilk - excused

Committee staff present: Chris Courtwright, Legislative Research Department
April Holman, Legislative Research Department
Don Hayward, Revisor of Statutes
Shirley Sicilian, Department of Revenue
Ann Deitcher, Committee Secretary
Edith Beaty, Taxation Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

The Chair spoke to the Committee in regard to a resolution that would require the Attorney General to prosecute an action to determine the reasonableness of attorney fees awarded to the local outside counsel in the national tobacco settlement case. (Attachment 1).

Statute 75-702, that authorizes the legislature to pass resolutions to take issues to court. The legislature has done this on several occasions, such as when the Attorney General was asked to take the Kansas Nebraska water situation to court. (Attachment 2).

A copy was passed out of the determination of the arbitration panel that was heard in Texas on November 13, 1999. (Attachment 3).

Asked if this resolution were to be passed by the Committee would it then go to the Senate, Representative Wagle said that it would have to be approved by the full house. She also stressed that the passage of this would in no way hurt the funding that is coming to the state.

Representative Tomlinson requested that more time be allowed to study the ramifications of the resolution. The Chair agreed to grant his request.

A motion was made by Representative Johnston to introduce the resolution as a house bill in order for it to be studied. The motion was seconded by Representative Sharp and it passed on a voice vote.

The Chair called their attention to the copy of the rules for professional conduct that had been handed out to each Committee member. (Attachment 4).

The Committee was reminded that if this resolution was passed, it was then out of their hands. She asked if they wanted to set a time to meet again or just adjourn and think about it over the weekend.

Representative Minor said he was of the opinion that this issue should be brought to a conclusion before too long and he would encourage the Committee to be ready to vote on the bill by the end of the following week.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 2, 2000.