

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Melvin Neufeld at 9:00 a.m. on February 21, 2003, in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Brenda Landwehr, Excused

Committee staff present: J. G. Scott, Legislative Research Department
Amy Deckard, Legislative Research Department
Becky Krahl, Legislative Research Department
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research Department
Robert Waller, Legislative Research Department
Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes
Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes
Nikki Feuerborn, Administrative Analyst
Sue Fowler, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Others Attending: See Attached

Representative Pottorff moved for the introduction of legislation regarding public records. Motion was seconded by Representative Bethell. Motion carried.

Hearing and Action on SB 52 – Emergency medical services board, financing, tax on fire insurance business, technical correction

Robert Waller, Legislative Research Department, explained the bill as being technical in nature with a date change only.

There were no proponents or opponents to the bill and Chairman Neufeld closed the hearing on **SB 52**.

Representative Shriver moved to report favorably **SB 52** and have it placed on the Consent Calendar. Motion was seconded by Representative Nichols. Motion carried.

Representative Merrick, Member of the Public Safety Budget Committee, presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendations for the State Board of Indigents' Defense Services for FY 2003 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendations with notations for FY 2003. (Attachment 1). Motion was seconded by Representative Minor. Motion carried.

Representative Merrick, Member of the Public Safety Budget Committee, presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendations for the State Board of Indigents' Defense Services for FY 2004 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendations with notations for FY 2004. (Attachment 1). Motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Motion carried.

Representative Klein, Member of the Tax, Judicial, Transportation and Retirement Budget Committee, presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendations for the Judicial Council for FY 2003 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendations with comment for FY 2003. (Attachment 2). Motion was seconded by Representative Campbell. Motion carried.

Representative Klein, Member of the Tax, Judicial, Transportation and Retirement Budget Committee, presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendations for the Judicial Council for FY 2004 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendations with comment for FY 2004. (Attachment 2). Motion was seconded by Representative Campbell. Motion carried.

Representative McCreary, Chair of the Tax, Judicial, Transportation and Retirement Budget Committee, presented

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS at 9:00 a.m. on February 21, 2003, in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendations for the Judicial Branch for FY 2003 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendations for FY 2003. (Attachment 3). Motion was seconded by Representative Campbell. Motion carried.

Representative McCreary, Chair of the Tax, Judicial, Transportation and Retirement Budget Committee, presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendations for the Judicial Branch for FY 2004 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendations with exceptions for FY 2004. (Attachment 3). Motion was seconded by Representative Campbell.

The Committee questioned the appropriateness of treating the Judicial Branch budget differently than other budgets by granting cost-of-living increases and group health insurance rate increases when the Committee has recommended this be handled globally with all other branches. The Committee was reluctant to judicial branch salary increases as that may appear to be an entitlement. It was pointed out that the proposed budgetary increase was to offset the increased case flow over which the courts have no control. The original budget request from the Judicial Branch was for \$8 million; however, the Budget Committee recommended less than half of the request. The temporary emergency docket fee surcharge, which was implemented in April 2002, was not recommended for renewal by the Judicial Branch.

Representative McLeland moved to amend the budget committee report by striking Item 1. Motion was seconded by Representative Huebert. Motion carried.

The Committee discussed the re-implementation of the temporary surcharge on docket fees as a way to infuse the Judicial Branch budget. The projected fees to be collected through the surcharge is approximately \$3.6 million per fiscal year.

Representative Nichols moved for the introduction of legislation to statutorily enact a permanent surcharge equal to that which was adopted by the courts and to require courts to charge an administrative fee to indigent defendants to reimburse the Board of Indigents' Services. Motion was seconded by Representative Minor. Motion carried.

Representative McCreary renewed his motion to adopt the Budget Committee recommendations with exceptions for FY 2004 as amended. (Attachment 3). Motion was seconded by Representative McLeland. Motion carried.

Representative Bethell moved that the minutes of January 30, January 31, February 4 and February 5 be approved as presented. Motion was seconded by Representative Campbell. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2003.

Melvin Neufeld, Chair