

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND REORGANIZATION Subcommittee on
Reorganization

March 22, 1993 Hearing Room E 1:30 p.m. Tapes 11 - 13

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. John Watt, Chair Rep. Delna Jones Rep. Michael
Payne Rep. Eldon Johnson Rep. Avel Gordly

STAFF PRESENT: Adrienne Sexton, Committee Administrator Kenneth
Brady, Committee Clerk

MEASURES CONSIDERED: HB 2841 - Implements Full Employment Program
adopted by 199 0 initiative.

WITNESSES: Ted Abram Chuck Hobbs Kimi Gray John Egge
Patience Talcott Jim Covert Bill Early Connie Green, Governor's office
Steve Minnich Sylvia Mitchell, Oregon Human Rights Coalition Chuck
Sheketoff, Oregon Human Rights Coalition Katie Eyeman, Welfare Review
Commission Steve Lanning, AFL-CIO Catherine Stearns

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These minutes contain materials which paraphrase and/or summarize
statements made during this session. Only text enclosed in
quotation marks report a speaker's exact words. For complete contents
of the proceedings, please refer to the tapes. [--- Unable To Translate
Graphic ---]

TAPE 11, SIDE A

003 REPRESENTATIVE JOHN WATT, SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR: Convenes meeting at
1:44 p.m. -Opens hearing on HB 2841.

PUBLIC HEARING - HB 2841

011 ADRIENNE SEXTON, COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATOR: Explains HB 2841 and
amendments. -Explains Full Employment Program.

079 TED ABRAM: Explains the intent of this bill.

132 CHUCK HOBBS: Explains the concept of the Full Employment Program.
-Anticipates a decrease in the number of people that need welfare.
-Displays charts (EXHIBIT B).

303 REPRESENTATIVE AVEL GORDLY: There are 11,000 jobs needed for
this. Do they exist?

310 HOBBS: Responds. -Cannot be used to replace workers or fill
unfilled positions.

333 GORDLY: These are not permanent full-time jobs?

336 HOBBS: Full-time, but not necessarily permanent. -Explains.
-Continues explanation of program. -Notes budget neutrality.

TAPE 12, SIDE A

036 HOBBS: Explains waivers. -Will need waivers in Assistance to
Families with Dependent Children and Food Stamps,
but not Unemployment Insurance Fund.

078 REPRESENTATIVE ELDON JOHNSON: Do you believe there are
conformity problems with this with the federal unemployment act?

089 HOBBS: Responds.

102 JOHNSON: Will this bill revert any excess funds to employment
reserves?

107 HOBBS: Responds.

119 JOHNSON: Does it have a sunset provision in three years?

121 HOBBS: Responds.

124 SEXTON: No sunset, per amendments.

132 JOHNSON: What if it runs out of money?

133 HOBBS: The program ends.

134 JOHNSON: Who has rulemaking authority?

136 HOBBS: Responds.

143 JOHNSON: Who do they report to?

145 HOBBS: Legislature and the governor.

148 JOHNSON: Are they exempt from the governor's and legislature's
controls?

150 HOBBS: I don't know.

152 JOHNSON: What's to prevent laying off regular workers and hiring
these people under this program?

154 HOBBS: Responds.

159 JOHNSON: Who pays the unemployment tax?

161 HOBBS: That's yet to be resolved.

167 JOHNSON: Who will try to get them jobs or better jobs?

170 HOBBS: Responds.

177 JOHNSON: What will the impact be on public agencies if they have to
hire them?

183 HOBBS: None, since the program pays the wage.

188 ABRAMS: Both public and private businesses get to share this equally.

195 GORDLY: What specific waivers would be required?

200 HOBBS: Responds.

222 GORDLY: How much time would it take to get all these waivers?

226 HOBBS: Hopefully 90 days.

237 GORDLY: How is hiring at the poverty level wage going to help?

244 HOBBS: Responds. -The goal is to get people trained and into work.

271 GORDLY: Do you intend to amend the bill to require child care?

278 HOBBS: Responds.

280 GORDLY: How will it be paid for?

283 HOBBS: Responds. 300 GORDLY: There are not enough child care slots available now then?

306 HOBBS: No. -Explains.

318 GORDLY: How many children might need child care?

321 HOBBS: About 1.7 per family. 10,000-15,000.

330 GORDLY: Some of these people don't have basic entry-level skills.

344 JOHNSON: Are there provisions in the amended version?

352 REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL PAYNE: Why hasn't this been implemented already?

362 HOBBS: Responds.

381 PAYNE: Gives an example. Couldn't I, as a new business owner, use ONLY these people instead of regular workers?

396 HOBBS: Responds.

405 ABRAM: Responds.

413 PAYNE: Expresses concern that cash-outs of food stamps could lead to abuse and alcoholism.

421 HOBBS: Responds.

436 PAYNE: Will these people be eligible for PERS since they'll be state employees?

440 HOBBS: Not sure. -Introduces Kimi Gray.

TAPE 11, SIDE B

045 KIMI GRAY: Explains her situation and experience. -Describes the

process of the program. -Gives examples.

152 REPRESENTATIVE DELNA JONES: What obstacles do you think we need to be aware of?

158 GRAY: Responds. -Licensing, agencies, laws.

167 JONES: Like what?

169 GRAY: Union wage restrictions, etc. -Continues response.

190 JONES: How many years ago did you start this?

195 GRAY: In 1982.

200 ABRAM: They went from 98% unemployment to 2% unemployment. No teen-age pregnancies.

207 GRAY: And no crime. We have college programs, too.

222 GORDLY: How have recipients been involved in developing HB 2841?

232 HOBBS: It passed as Measure 7 on the ballot. We have worked with recipients. Councils must include recipients.

252 GRAY: I asked the same thing. Each client will be individually interviewed.

272 GORDLY: What groups were involved with coming up with HB 2841?

275 ABRAM: Responds.

286 WATT: When you began, did everybody fall into line, or were there problems?

294 GRAY: Responds. -Caused a rippling effect.

322 WATT: What do you say to people who say this will inhibit people from succeeding?

328 GRAY: Responds.

343 PAYNE: Could we get a copy of the operating plan?

349 ABRAM: Yes.

366 JOHNSON: What if the employee is injured on the job?

370 ABRAM: Responds.

380 JOHN EGGE: Notes the Work Force Quality Council. -Submits a chart (EXHIBIT C).

TAPE 12, SIDE B

030 PATIENCE TALCOTT: In support of HB 2841.

055 JIM COVERT: In support of HB 2841. -Disappointed by the lack of enthusiasm to do this sooner.

070 JONES: You are willing participants in the program if it were approved?

070 COVERT: Yes. 075 TALCOTT: Yes.

083 EGGE: Yes.

097 BILL EARLY: Introduces self.

099 JONES: You'll work for a dollar a year? How can you do that?

101 EARLY: Responds. -Explains his background.

106 GORDLY: How were you selected?

108 EARLY: I was a petitioner on Measure 7.

117 CONNIE GREEN, GOVERNOR'S OFFICE: It's not that we don't want to do this, we're just waiting for waivers. -Notes Oregon Benchmarks. -What are intervention strategies? -How do we help businesses create jobs?

200 JONES: What do you mean On-the-Job Training RIGHT now?

205 STEVE MINNICH, Adult & Family Services: Responds.

223 JONES: How do you describe On-the-Job Training?

231 MINNICH: Responds.

251 PAYNE: The jobs program is good, but this is HB 2841, about Measure 7, which was passed by the people. We need to do it. Would this bill improve the ability to get the waivers?

261 GREEN: Responds.

282 JONES: Can you tell me if the governor is supportive of measure 7 and will put effort into it?

292 GREEN: I can't say for sure, but she has requested the waivers.

304 JONES: What kind of effort should the legislature invest in bringing people together?

320 GREEN: Responds.

337 WATT: The majority of people in the state voted for measure 7, and isn't that a "huge coalition?"

348 GREEN: Responds.

360 SYLVIA MITCHELL, OREGON HUMAN RIGHTS COALITION: In opposition to HB 284 1. -Submits written testimony (EXHIBIT D).

TAPE 13, SIDE A

050 JONES: How long have you been working?

053 MITCHELL: About 5 years.

055 JONES: What are you doing now?

057 MITCHELL: Oregon Human Rights Coalition.

061 JONES: How much do you get paid?

063 MITCHELL: Responds.

065 JONES: How old are your children?

067 MITCHELL: Responds.

070 CHUCK SHEKETOFF, ATTORNEY FOR O.H.R.C.: Submits written testimony (EXHIBIT E). -In opposition to HB 2841.

-The whole problem is with the minimum wage.

088 WATT: What should the minimum wage be?

090 SHEKETOFF: I don't know. It should be set with tax policy.
-Continues testimony.

111 JONES: Oregon's tax policy favors the rich?

113 SHEKETOFF: Responds. -Continues testimony.

141 JOHNSON: Please stick to the bill.

145 SHEKETOFF: Continues his testimony.

184 JONES: What has been your opportunity to receive child support, Sylvia?

189 MITCHELL: Responds.

208 KATIE EYEMAN, WELFARE REVIEW COMMISSION: Notes the original wording of measure 7. -Against the removal of the sunset. That's against voter approval.

245 WATT: You think the voters understood the meaning of the sunset?

255 EYEMAN: Yes.

287 STEVE LANNING, AFL-CIO: In opposition to HB 2841. -Submits written testimony (EXHIBIT F). -Notes concerns with unemployment insurance. -Minimum wage is not enough.

310 CATHERINE STEARNS: I will wait until the next meeting to testify. -Submits written testimony (EXHIBIT G).

316 WATT: Adjourns meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

Reveiwed by:

Kenneth Brady
Administrator

Adrienne Sexton Clerk

EXHIBIT LOG:

A - HB 2841 with amendments - Hobbs Co. - 28 pages B - Charts & information - Chuck Hobbs - 7 pages C - Chart - John Egge - 1 page D - Testimony on HB 2841 - Sylvia Mitchell - 3 pages E - Testimony on HB 2841 - Chuck Sheketoff - 4 pages F - Testimony on HB 2841 - Steve Lanning - 6 pages G - Testimony on HB 2841 - Catherine Stearns - 2 pages H - Testimony on HB 2841 - Debra Lee - 4 pages I - Testimony on HB 2841 - James Solomon, Jr. - 1 page