

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

June 18, 1993 Hearing Room B 8:00 a.m. Tapes 164 - 165

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Tricia Smith, Chair Sen. Karsten Rasmussen,
Vice-Chair Sen. Dick Springer Sen. Brady Adams Sen. Wes Cooley

STAFF PRESENT: Stephanie Holmes, Committee Research Counsel
Katy Yetter, Committee Clerk

MEASURES CONSIDERED: HB 2043 - Relating to Workers'
Compensation Board SB 1134 - Relating to Contract Claims Board Executive
Appointment of Thomas Ferron to the

Bargaining Unit Benefits Board

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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 164, SIDE A

003 CHAIR SMITH: Calls the meeting to order at 8:25 a.m.

EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENT OF THOMAS L. FERRON TO THE BARGAINING UNIT
BENEFITS BOARD

015 THOMAS, FERRON, APPOINTEE: Indicates to the committee why he will
make a beneficial addition to the Board.

035 MOTION: CHAIR SMITH: Moves to CONFIRM the appointment of
Thomas Ferron to the Bargaining Unit Benefits Board with the

Senate.

040 VOTE: In a roll call vote, all members are present and vote
AYE.

045 CHAIR SMITH: The motion CARRIES.

047 SEN. ADAMS will lead discussion on the Floor.

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 2043

WITNESSES: Mary Neidig, Workers' Compensation Board Thomas Gunn,
Workers' Compensation Board Douglas Schoen, Liberty Northwest Brad Witt,
OAFI-CIO Christopher Moore, Oregon Workers' Compensation Association
Diane Rosenbaum, Frank Biehl, Advisory Commission on Workers'
Compensation

060 MARY NEIDIG, WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD: Presents testimony in favor of HB 2043 (EXHIBIT A).

120 SEN. RASMUSSEN: Asks Neidig how the budget is reviewed and by whom.

130 NEIDIG: Replies by stating that the review is submitted to 16 review staff attorneys.

140 SEN. RASMUSSEN: States that 16 is more than what there were in the late '80's. What do the attorneys do for the board.

155 NEIDIG: Replies that they review and prepare the client's file for a draft recommendation. -Continues with testimony. -The Board supports the seven-member Board over the five-member board.

260 SEN. RASMUSSEN: Asks Neidig if there is a fiscal impact and what the extent may be.

271 NEIDIG: The fiscal impact of adding two members would be \$165,000. -The deciding factors are cost versus efficiency in deciding to add

extra members.

322 SEN. RASMUSSEN: Asks Neidig about potential layoffs.

331 NEIDIG: Replies that the basis for this has to do with the prediction of workload. -Three of the research positions are temporary.

373 CHAIR SMITH: Asks how many of the cases in backlog are waiting on a court decision.

380 NEIDIG: Numerous reasons for cases in backlog. -Few proponents of the backlog issue. Most are dispute cases.

TAPE 165, SIDE A

013 NEIDIG: Continues with description of workload and time frame of each type of case. -Three members is too few to sufficiently handle the work. -Workload is determined on a month-to-month basis.

080 THOMAS GUNN, OREGON WORKERS' COMPENSATION: Testifies in favor of HB 2043. -Prefers the seven member board. -Discusses the Board's chain of operation. -Senior staff reviews decisions for consistency.

195 NEIDIG: Reiterates the importance of adding two members. -Describes how each member is appointed. -The hiring model is similar to the Employment Appeals Board.

237 GUNN: Adds that of the seven members, delegating one to be the overseer may be beneficial.

260 CHAIR SMITH: Expresses concern over the loyalty of an agency employee to the agency, creating a biased Board member.

340 FRANK BIEHL, ADVISORY COMMISSION ON WORKERS' COMPENSATION: Presents testimony in opposition to HB 2034.

TAPE 164, SIDE B

026 DIANE ROSENBAUM, OREGON STATE INDUSTRIAL UNION COUNCIL:
Testifies in opposition to HB 2034 (EXHIBIT C). -The panel will no longer be balanced if members are added. -There is a proposal for alleviating the workload without adding members to the board.

090 BRAD WITT, OAFI-CIO: Testifies in opposition to HB 2034. -The existing Board is adequate and appropriate.

117 DOUG SHOEN, LIBERTY NORTHWEST: Presents testimony on HB 2034 (EXHIBIT B).

163 CHRIS MOORE, EUGENE: Testifies in support of the -3 amendments to HB 2043.

WORK SESSION TO HB 2043

188 MOTION: SEN. RASMUSSEN: Moves to ADOPT the -3 amendments to HB 2043 dated 6-93.

190 VOTE: In a roll call vote at the request of the Chair, all members present vote AYE with the exception of SEN. COOLEY and

ADAMS who vote NO.

195 CHAIR SMITH: The motion CARRIES.

197 MOTION: SEN. RASMUSSEN: Moves HB 2034 AS AMENDED to the Floor with a DO PASS recommendation.

200 VOTE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote AYE with the exception of SEN. COOLEY and ADAMS who vote NO.

208 CHAIR SMITH: The motion CARRIES.

210 SEN. RASMUSSEN will lead discussion on the Floor.

PUBLIC HEARING ON SB 1134

WITNESSES: Elizabeth Harchenko, Justice Department

240 ELIZABETH HARCHENKO, JUSTICE DEPARTMENT: Testifies on SB 1134 for purposes of clarification.

380 CHAIR SMITH: Refers to the fiscal impact of SB 1134. -Discusses issues of cost and policy.

TAPE 165, SIDE B

037 CHAIR SMITH: Adjourns the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Submitted by:

Reviewed by:

Katy Yetter
Committee Coordinator

Pamela Stefani Committee Clerk

EXHIBIT LOG:

A - Testimony on HB 2043 - M. Neidig - 4 pages B - Testimony on HB
2043 - D. Schoen - 2 pages C - Testimony on HB 2043 - D. Rosenbaum - 1
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