

1999 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1228


1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HBO 1228

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 1-22-1999

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		X	16.5 - 28.4
Committee Clerk Signature 			

Minutes: Some of the individuals testifying submit written testimony. When noted please refer to it for more detailed information.

Representative Klein, Chairman of the GVA Committee opened the hearing on January 22, 1999.

Summary of the Bill: Relating to state employee compensation legislation.

Testimony in Favor:

Representative Gorder, Appeared before the committee to introduce the bill. I have a large number of state employees in my district and would like Chris Runge to explain it.

Chris Runge, NDPEA submitted a written testimony which she read in it's entirety (**please refer to her testimony**).

Representative Klein, Do you honestly believe we would pass an appropriation bill this early in the session?

Runge, Absolutely not.

Representative Devlin, Do you feel that state employees should be treated differently?

Runge, Our public employees need to be back at work. If we could agree on a certain time frame.

But not on an up and down vote/bill.

Tom Tupa, Independent ND State Employees Association stated that they support the bill.

Mike Sandal, Elected employee representative for non classified employees on the state employees compensation committee. I am recommending a do pass.

Testimony in Opposition: None.

Testimony Neutral:

Rod Backman, OMB this bill has nothing to do with the actual appropriations. We did think the argument for a separate hearing is a necessary one. We do like that.

Representative Devlin, Two sides to the issue. My district where the farmers are really struggling would say no increase in salaries for anybody in state government. As part of the OMB bill I say there are a lot of other good things in there and I needed to vote for it. This thing is all by itself. It's really easy to say no money for state employees because my people are getting killed in my district. I think there is a real danger here for public employees.

Representative Klein, Closed the hearing on HB 1228.

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1228

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 1-29-1999

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		X	6.6 - 20.0
Committee Clerk Signature <i>J.M. Williams</i>			

Minutes: Representative Klein instructed the committee that HB 1228 is the next bill to take action on. This is the one where they want a separate bill for state employee compensation. There are some problems with this. I feel if we pull this out and not leave it in the big pile and make this a separate issue, it could cut the other way. The perception is there in areas where there are not a lot of state employees.

Summary of the Bill: Relating to state employee compensation legislation.

Representative Cleary, So we can see how people are voting on this issue. The big picture.

Representative Gorder, OMB didn't oppose this. My constituents would like this in my area.

Representative Cleary, Their concern was that they have to come on their own time and wait.

Representative Klein, This was addressed. They had a separate hearing in the senate for them.

Representative Devlin, I go home and my constituents have absolutely no tolerance for state employee wages. I don't like to do that because I have really good feelings for the employees of

ND. I will probably have to vote no. This section standing by itself would be open to referral, and that can happen.

Representative Haas, What's the advantage of doing this?

Representative Cleary, I think I see it as saying public employees are a valuable part of our system. They see it has the last bunch considered.

Representative Hawken, We put a lot of things in code. We have to make things happen on our own.

Representative Klemin, Line 8, salary increases every biennium? The way I read it this is what would be required.

Representative Kliniske, Public employees salaries have to be included in the budget, so regardless of what we do on this bill it has to go to appropriations.

Representative Haas, Everyone feels neglected in different employee groups. There are other ways of showing appreciation to employees. Can't look at one component of a budget in isolation from the rest of the budget.

Representative Klemin, It looks like political reason for using state employees as pawns.

Committee Action:

Representative Thoreson, Made a motion for a Do Not Pass .

Representative Haas, Seconded the motion.

Motion Passes: Do Not Pass **10-5**.

Representative Devlin, Is the carrier for the bill.

Roll Call Vote #: ~~128~~ 1 Date: 1-29-99

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1228

House GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS Committee

Subcommittee on _____
or
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Not Pass

Motion Made By THORESON Seconded By HAAS

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
CHAIRMAN KLEIN	✓		REP. WINRICH		✓
VICE-CHAIR KLINISKE	✓				
REP. BREKKE	✓				
REP. CLEARY		✓			
REP. DEVLIN	✓				
REP. FAIRFIELD		✓			
REP. GORDER	⊗	✓			
REP. GRANDE	✓				
REP. HAAS	✓				
REP. HAWKEN	✓				
REP. KLEMIN	✓				
REP. KROEBER		✓			
REP. METCALF	✓				
REP. THORESON	✓				

Total (Yes) 10 No 5

Absent _____

Floor Assignment DEVLIN

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
January 29, 1999 1:34 p.m.

Module No: HR-19-1494
Carrier: Devlin
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1228: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Klein, Chairman)
recommends **DO NOT PASS** (10 YEAS, 5 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
HB 1228 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

1999 TESTIMONY

HB 1228



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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1228

**Before the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
North Dakota Public Employees Association, AFT Local 4660, AFL-CIO
January 22, 1998**

Chairman Klein, members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee, my name is Chris Runge and I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota Public Employees Association, AFT #4660. I am here to testify in favor of HB 1228. This bill would require OMB to submit state employee compensation in a separate and independent bill. Right now the state employee salary compensation package is found in the OMB budget bill. For instance SB 2015 is the OMB Budget Bill this session and our salaries are in sections 6 and 7. Last session the state employee salary compensation package was found in section 7 of House Bill 1015.

What this meant for state employee who wanted to testify on state employee compensation is that they either had to sit through the entire OMB Budget hearing until committee got to Section 6 or guess at what time the committee might get to that particular section. It was hit or miss at best. As you know, if a public employee wants to testify on a bill of personal importance, they must take annual leave, as they should. Many state employees have taken additional time off just to sit and wait for that particular section to be heard and then had to wait until the entire presentation on the OMB budget was done to testify for or against the salary section.

The other reason we are supporting this bill is have an up or down independent vote on state employee compensation. Let me explain. During the last session when HB 1015 was introduced it had

Quality Services from Quality People

Testimony

only 14 sections to it including emergency and expiration date clauses. I don't even remember what the final tally was on sections added to the OMB budget bill by the end of the session. What starts out as a bill on the OMB budget and state employee compensation turns into a catchall bill at the end of the session.

The State Employees Compensation Commission, which consists of state employees, elected by state employees representing classified and non-classified employees as well as legislators and Mr. Backman from OMB also recommended in their compensation report to Governor Schafer that state employee compensation should be put in a separate and independent bill.

NDPEA supports that recommendation and this bill. We urge a DO PASS on HB 1228.

Thank you and I am available to answer any questions you may have.