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Donna G. Halloran
Operator's Signature

9/30/03
Date

2003 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1001

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2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1001

House Appropriations Committee
Education and Environment Division

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 31, 2003

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	X		
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Celeste Keller</i>			

Minutes:

Chairman Martinson opened the hearing on HB 1001. All members of the committee were present with the exception of Representative Brusegaard and Representative Aarsvold.

Wes Belter, District 22 and chairman of Legislative Council, introduced HB 1001 which deals with the budget for Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly. Both budget proposals represent a reduction over the past biennium. Testimony was turned over to John Olsrud.

John Olsrud, Director of Legislative Council, testified regarding the budget requests for Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council. See attached testimony.

Rep. Wald What do we pay the Council State Government (CSG)?

Olsrud I do not know. The Council State Government includes all branches of government.

There is a flat amount. We participate, but we don't pay separate dues.

Rep. Wald Is that in the OMB budget?

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Olsrud Yes. I get a letter each year that is sent to the director of OMB asking for the dues, but I don't remember what that is.

Rep. Wald I would ask Jim Smith or Joe from OMB to give us a list of all of the agencies that belong to CSG and how much we pay by agency.

Jim Smith In the OMB appropriation bill, SB 2015, they include the amounts for the various dues and memberships for the Council State Governments for next biennium. It's \$138,500.

Chairman Martinson Does that include all of the agencies?

Smith Right.

Rep. Wald SB 2015?

Smith Right.

Chairman Martinson Why are you having a difficult time filling positions? Is it the amount that you are willing to pay? How long have they been open?

Olsrud They have probably been vacant for more than 2 years. We decided at the end of the 2001 session not to make an offer to the temporary people who had worked at that time. It is a combination of things including looking for people with experience. Saying it is strictly compensation and adding dollars to our appropriation is sensitive because we don't want to upset current employees. The Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly is a small branch. If someone gets sick for a day, operations are shut down in that area, and that is not a good position to be in. It is more finding the skills than the pay.

Rep. Gulleson On related legislation, it talks about SB 2294 which requires to reconvene each even numbered year for budget adjustment purposes. Is this a bill about annual sessions?

Olsrud I think that used to be called the Senator Redlin bill, which has been revived.

Donna Halliday
Operator's Signature

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Rep. Wald I am amazed at the quality of people you hire. It never ceases to amaze me the amount of work they crank out when we are in session, particularly in appropriations. Can you meet the salary requirements to keep these people? Is that an issue that needs to be looked at?

Olsrud Turnover is always difficult with a small operation such as we have because we are relying on so few people to do multi tasks. We had a lot of applicants for our fiscal positions this time, which has a lot to do with the economy. I can't say we have difficulty finding people, because there are a lot of people looking for jobs today. We will always have trouble, particularly in the fiscal area, with salaries because the executive branch looks at our people. We have had some amazing success stories. We have to accept the fact that we probably are going to lose people when there are major openings.

Rep. Wald John, can you share those various line items with us, your breakdown?

Olsrud I gave the clerk a copy of that.

Chairman Martinson closed the hearing on HB 1001.

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2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1001

House Appropriations Committee
Education and Environment Division

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 14, 2003

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	X		

Committee Clerk Signature *Celste Keller*

Minutes:

Chairman Martinson opened the hearing on HB 1001. All members of the committee were present. There was not a subcommittee on HB 1001. Chairman Martinson went through the amendments, see attached.

Rep. Brusegaard I move the amendments.

Rep. Monson Second.

Chairman Martinson Is there any discussion?

A voice vote was taken on the proposed amendments and the motion carried.

Chairman Martinson We have the amended bill before us.

Rep. Brusegaard I would move a do pass as amended on HB 1001.

Chairman Martinson Is there a second?

Rep. Monson Second.

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Chairman Martinson Is there any discussion? Asked the clerk to call the roll.

ROLL CALL VOTES ON A DO PASS AS AMENDED

7 YES 0 NO 0 ABSENT

Chairman Martinson asked Rep. Brusegaard to take that and closed the hearing on HB 1001.

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