

**MINUTES OF COMMERCE & REVENUE  
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

January 28, 1998 - 2:00 P.M.  
Room 414, State Capitol Building

MEMBERS PRESENT:       Sen. Al Mansell, Co-Chair  
                              Rep. Lowell A. Nelson, Co-Chair  
                              Sen. Lorin Jones  
                              Sen. Eddie Mayne  
                              Rep. Eli H. Anderson  
                              Rep. Duane Bourdeaux  
                              Rep. Beverly Ann Evans  
                              Rep. John E. Swallow  
                              Rep. John L. Valentine

MEMBERS ABSENT:       Rep. Christine R. Fox-Finlinson

STAFF PRESENT:         William J. Greer, Fiscal Analyst  
                              Sylvia Newton, Committee Secretary

VISITORS LIST:         Attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Rep. Nelson called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

MOTION:        Sen. Mayne moved to approve the minutes for the January 23 and January 26, 1998 meetings. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Mansell, Rep. Evans, Rep. Fox-Finlinson, and Rep. Swallow absent for the vote.

MOTION:        Sen. Jones moved to approve the Analyst's budget recommendation for the Public Service Commission in the amount of \$8,393,200 as discussed in the previous meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Evans, Rep. Fox-Finlinson, Rep. Swallow, and Sen. Mansell absent for the vote.

MOTION:        Rep. Valentine moved to approve the Analyst's budget recommendation for the Department of Commerce in the amount of \$14,650,00, including one-time funding of \$350,000 for Year 2000 computer upgrades, as discussed in the previous meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Fox-Finlinson, Rep. Swallow, and Sen. Mansell absent for the vote.

Rep. Valentine discussed his concerns regarding the funding of travel for the Licensing Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. He asked to have the Analyst prepare intent language to clarify authority for the situation.

Budget Review:

Bill Greer, Fiscal Analyst, described the Workers' Compensation Fund. All funding comes from premiums paid by policyholders. The Company receives no funding from the

State. The budget discussed is for Legislative review rather than for approval.

Lane Summerhays, Executive Director, and Ray Pickup, Financial Officer of Workers' Compensation Fund, talked about the status of the Workers' Compensation Fund. Dennis Lloyd, also of Workers' Compensation Fund, responded to questions by the committee.

Budget Review:

Bill Greer explained the Analyst's recommendations for the Labor Commission. Changes passed by the 1997 Legislature restructured the State's Industrial Commission into a new department called the Labor Commission. Department leadership changed from three commissioners to one commissioner. The base funding recommendation is essentially the same as FY 1998. The Analyst recommends seven new full-time employees. There is a one-time appropriation recommendation of \$100,000 to upgrade computer equipment.

Commissioner Lee Ellertson and Finance Officer Gordon Linnett of the Labor Commission discussed the status of the Department. They expressed concern about base budget funding needs to address the Department's market comparability adjustments (salaries), a termination pool increase, and a health insurance increase. These total more than \$80,000 for the department. Larry Patrick answered questions from the committee about the need for more boiler and pressure vessel inspectors. Pete Groesbeck, Jay Bagley, Bill Gerow, and Joyce Sewell accompanied Commissioner Ellertson and answered questions.

There was a discussion regarding the backlog of cases being handled by the Division of Labor and Anti-Discrimination.

Rep. Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:35 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

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Sen. L. Alma Mansell, Co-Chair

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Rep. Lowell A. Nelson, Co-Chair