
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: MUSGROVE
FROM: HOWARD
SUBJECT: BILL REVIEWS
DATE: 03/04/2001

Governor,

1) A couple of staff members have asked us to report the House and Senate votes on every bill to be reviewed. Would this information also be beneficial to you? Or just specific bills?

The process will take additional time since as you know the House and Senate docket rooms do not have vote totals automated. Even with the House vote board, the results are printed and placed in a book. We will have to manually search and copy the pages. I believe the staff would allow me to work behind their counters, but may not allow our interns. The docket room's staff will then be the ones copying the votes – when they can - with their other duties.

During session the Governor's Office has only five (5) days to act on a bill pending the Governor's signature. Your need for at least two days to review the bills before you decide on your action leaves three (3) days for all staff work. I am concerned that getting every vote will reduce time for the staff to review the bills. Also, it could create a perception that legislator's votes are influencing your decisions.

2) Dr. Cole has suggested that the bills should be reviewed as a staff at one or more large meetings rather than reviewing them individually.

The system as set up appears to be working but you might consider reminding the staff why the system has been set up this way. As I understand it, the staff reads according to committee assignments, Peyton reads for constitution and legal implications, Donna for political and Dr. Cole for overall. This does require more individual time from more people than last year, but it insures that you get unfiltered information.