



Some aspects of legislative roll call behavior in the House of Representatives of the twenty-third legislative assembly of the State of Montana (1933-1935)
by Richard L Pastega

A THESIS Submitted to the Graduate Faculty in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science in Applied Science
Montana State University
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Abstract:

Legislative research in other states suggested the need for studies of an empirical nature on Montana legislators. Because tools and materials were available, legislative roll calls were selected for a pioneer attempt to probe legislative behavior in the state.

Following the collection of a wealth of data, several hypotheses were constructed to provide a theoretical framework for systematic analysis. Owner occupancy was used throughout as an index to socio-economic variables that might have been affecting public and legislative behavior. Further, coefficient of significance and party competition were used, as means for determining the significance of roll calls, one goal in the employment of these two variables was to be able to reflect on their usefulness in the type of research undertaken here.

Following the testing of the hypotheses, the results were organized and assessed. Some of the more significant conclusions were: (1) that Democrats in the Montana House of Representatives tend to cross party lines more freely than Republicans; (2) that a high coefficient of significance on a roll call may indicate that the decision on an issue is taking place at the time the roll call is taken; (3) that coefficient of significance appears to be a useful tool in studies of this type; (4) that some index of socio-economic variables other than owner occupancy should be sought, despite its apparent usefulness in this study and; (5) that further studies of this type should be conducted on other legislative groups in Montana.

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Following the collection of a wealth of data, several hypotheses were constructed to provide a theoretical framework for systematic analysis. Owner occupancy was used throughout as an index to socio-economic variables that might have been affecting public and legislative behavior. Further, co-efficient of significance and party competition were used as means for determining the significance of roll calls. One goal in the employment of these two variables was to be able to reflect on their usefulness in the type of research undertaken here.

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