



## State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARTIN OLAV SABO, Speaker

November 16, 1978

Memo to: Representatives Searle, Doug Carlson, Knickerbocker,  
Nelsen, Dean and Legislative Staff

From: John J. Finnegan, Jr./Staff

Re: Legislative Ties

As Representative Knickerbocker requested, the NCSL provided me with the following information which is basically the same information that it provided to Mr. Peter Levine.

Since the 1970 elections there have been 13 legislative ties in the several states. The bulk of these ties have occurred in State Senates. The ties in State Houses that would be of interest to us occurred during 1973-74 in South Dakota and during 1977-78 in North Dakota. Presently, there is a tie in the Washington House that is interesting since the Representatives there had been in a distinct minority and have strongly come back to parity status. This is similar to our situation and I will contact the Republican leadership out there this afternoon.

The method by which ties have been resolved do not seem to be applicable to our situation here. This is especially the case in Senate ties where organization was sometimes decided by the flip of the coin. The one tie that does seem to apply to our situation here would be the situation in North Dakota of which we are already familiar. I will do some additional checking into the South Dakota situation, but my own knowledge of that state suggests that the matter does not provide much insight for us.

I would like to point out that Montana must have experienced such problems before because that state has a statute that provides for the Speaker to be selected by the party with the Governor when ties occur in the State House. I believe that Montana also has a similar provision for the Senate but I did not discuss that with NCSL officials.

The breakdown of ties since 1970:

1971-72 - Alaska Senate  
Michigan Senate



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- 1973-74 - California Senate  
Michigan Senate  
South Dakota House
- 1975-76 - New Hampshire Senate  
Wyoming Senate
- 1977-78 - Montana Senate  
New Hampshire Senate  
North Dakota House
- 1979-80 - Alaska Senate  
Minnesota House  
Washington House

JJF:jr