

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE  
52nd LEGISLATURE - 2nd SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Call to Order: By Senator Chet Blaylock, Chairman, on July 8,  
1992, at 1:00 p.m., Room 325.

ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Chet Blaylock, Chairman (D)  
Harry Fritz, Vice Chairman (D)  
Robert Brown (R)  
B.F. "Chris" Christiaens (D)  
Bill Farrell (R)  
H.W. Hammond (R)  
Dennis Nathe (R)  
Mignon Waterman (D)  
Bill Yellowtail (D)

House Members Present:

Rep. Schye, Chairman  
Rep. Davis  
Rep. Benedict  
Rep. Bergsagel  
Rep. Clark  
Rep. Cocchiarella  
Rep. Daily  
Rep. Ellis  
Rep. Feland  
Rep. Gervais  
Rep. Hanson  
Rep. Harrington  
Rep. Kilpatrick  
Rep. McCarthy  
Rep. McCulloch  
Rep. Simpkins  
Rep. Wallin  
Rep. Wyatt

Members Excused: Representatives Forrester and Stang

Staff Present: Eddy McClure (Legislative Council)

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and  
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

**Announcements/Discussion:** Chairman Blaylock stated this hearing would be before the joint Senate and House Education committees. After conclusion of the presentation of Senate Bill 1 by sponsor Senator Jacobson and any questions regarding the bill, the House Education committee would return to their chambers and the Senate Education Committee would take executive action on SB 1 in an effort to get the bill on the Senate floor for action this date.

### HEARING ON SENATE BILL 1

#### Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Senator Judy Jacobson, sponsor, stated that Senate Bill 1 changes the date of distribution for state equalization aid payments to school districts from July 15 to July 31 of the school fiscal year. She noted there are bills that would change the 20 percent to something different, as well as bills that would reduce the payment from less than 100 percent to some other percentage. She indicated if SB 1 was not passed rather quickly, the Office of Public Instruction would have to make a payment before the Legislature acts. Senator Jacobson noted SB 1 does not have a sunset and urged the Education Committee to consider an appropriate time for sunseting SB 1. She concluded that it was her opinion if the Committee decided to change the date permanently that it should be accomplished in another bill.

#### Proponents' Testimony:

Greg Groepper, Office of Public Instruction, in supporting the bill noted money distributed to school districts is sent to county treasurers and in order to get paperwork cleared for the budget and accounting system, documents will have to be put into SBAS by July 13th at the latest. He noted the reason is that many county treasurers still take their money in a paper check, and the Board of Public Education has asked that those checks get out to arrive on the 15th of July which is the same date that counties taking electronic transfers have the money showing up in their bank account. He concluded his opinion that it is prudent to move the payment date to the end of the month in order to be able to decide what to do with the school funding.

#### Opponents' Testimony:

None.

#### Questions From Committee Members:

Representative Simpkins questioned what would happen if no sunset was put on the bill. Senator Jacobson said by changing the distribution more permanently, it would be known what the impact would mean to them.

Senator Blaylock indicated his opinion that school people in the past had asked for these particular dates because it would help them with their cash flow problems, hence the July 15th date. Senator Hammond said that was his opinion also.

Closing by Sponsor:

Senator Jacobson closed.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SENATE BILL 1

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes:

In response to a question from Senator Blaylock, Mr. Groepper indicated it was his opinion that the the payment be effective for fiscal year 1993 only. In that way, a sunset would not be necessary.

Senator Jacobson suggested that the proposed amendment be discussed with the Senate amendment coordinator to expedite the matter so the bill could be heard on the Senate floor this date. Ms. McClure, committee researcher, stated she knows the concept that is wanted for SB 1 and she would work with the amendment coordinator for the exact wording to make the date effective for this fiscal year only.

Senator Yellowtail moved that Senate Bill 1 AS AMENDED DO PASS.

Recommendation and Vote:

Senator Yellowtail's motion that Senate Bill 1 AS AMENDED DO PASS carried unanimously.

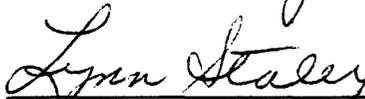
HEARING ON SENATE BILL 2

Chairman Blaylock stated that per the request of the Office of Public Instruction, Senate Bill 2 would be held for awhile.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment At: 1:25 p.m.

  
CHET BLAYLOCK, Chairman

  
LYNN STALEY, Secretary

Education ROLL CALL COMMITTEE

DATE 7/8/92

52 LEGISLATIVE SESSION Second Special Session

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Senator Blaylock	P		
Senator Fritz	P		
Senator Brown	P	-	
Senator Farrell	P		
Senator Hammond	P		
Senator Nathe	P		
Senator Christiaens	P		
Senator Waterman	P		
Senator Yellowtail	P		

Each day attach to minutes.

Education ROLL CALL  
COMMITTEE

DATE 7/8/92

52 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Second Session II

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Rep. Schye, Chairman	P		
Rep. Davis	P		
Rep. Benedict	P		
Rep. Bergsägel	P		
Rep. Clark	P		
Rep. Cocchiarella	P		
Rep. Daily	P		
Rep. Ellis	P		
Rep. Feland	P		
Rep. Forrester		✓	
Rep. Gervais	P		
Rep. Hanson	P		
Rep. Harrington	P	-	
Rep. Kilpatrick	P		
Rep. McCarthy	P		
Rep. McCulloch	P		
Rep. Simpkins	P		
Rep. Stang		✓	
Rep. Wallin	P		
Rep. Wyatt	P		

Each day attach to minutes.

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

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July 8, 1992

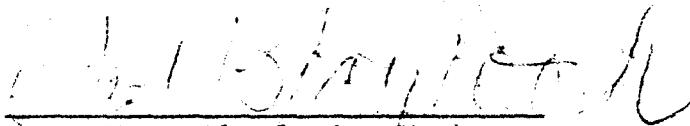
MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Education and Cultural Resources having had under consideration Senate Bill No. 1 (first reading copy -- white), respectfully report that Senate Bill No. 1 be amended and as so amended do pass:

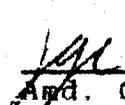
1. Title, line 8.  
Following: "DATE"  
Insert: "AND A TERMINATION DATE"

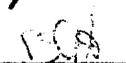
2. Page 3. lines 23 and 24.  
Following: "date"  
Insert: "-- termination"

Following: "approval" on line 24  
Insert: "and terminates June 30, 1993"

Signed: 

Chet Blaylock, Chairman

 7-8-92  
Ad. Coord.

 7/8/92  
Sec. of Senate

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