

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
55th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN TOM ZOOK**, on February 7, 1997, at 3:00 p.m., in Room 312.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Tom Zook, Chairman (R)  
Rep. Edward J. "Ed" Grady, Vice Chairman (Majority) (R)  
Rep. Joe Quilici, Vice Chairman (Minority) (D)  
Rep. Beverly Barnhart (D)  
Rep. Ernest Bergsagel (R)  
Rep. John Cobb (R)  
Rep. Roger DeBruycker (R)  
Rep. Gary Feland (R)  
Rep. Don Holland (R)  
Rep. John Johnson (D)  
Rep. Royal C. Johnson (R)  
Rep. Betty Lou Kasten (R)  
Rep. Bob Keenan (R)  
Rep. Matt McCann (D)  
Rep. William T. "Red" Menahan (D)  
Rep. Ray Peck (D)  
Rep. Steve Vick (R)  
Rep. William R. Wiseman (R)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Clayton Schenck, Legislative Fiscal Division  
Marjorie Peterson, Committee Secretary

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing: HB 47, HB 119, HB 296  
Executive Action: None.

**HEARING ON HB 47**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

**REP. ALVIN ELLIS, HD 23, Red Lodge**, opened the hearing on HB 47, An act increasing by 3.5% the basic entitlement and the per-ANB entitlement for public schools. **REP. ELLIS** handed out information sheets which included the Actual Spending by Schools Districts, a chart of School District General Fund Budgets, and a

chart of Distribution of All School Districts Within Equalization Window. EXHIBITS 1, 2, 3.

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Proponents:

**GOVERNOR MARC RACICOT.** The Governor said this bill had essential recommendations and reinvested funds into education. He is convinced the legislature and committee should pursue this very important part of the budget. He urged Appropriations Committee to recommend passage of this bill.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 7.0.}

Nancy Keenan, State Superintendent of Schools, Helena. Ms. Keenan also urged the committee to encourage funding for public schools.

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Wayne Buchanan, Executive Secretary, Board of Public Education, Helena.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 12.0.}

Cathy Day, Montana Parents and Teachers Association, Great Falls.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 13.4.}

Kent Johnson, Helena.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 16.1.}

Andree Deligdisch, American Association of University Women, Great Falls. Ms. Deligdisch offered her written testimony, also in support of HB 119. EXHIBIT 4.

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**REP. KIM GILLAN, HD 11, Billings,** also wanted to be a proponent for HB 119.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 19.9.}

Shannon Curry, Senior High School Student, Sky View High School, Billings.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 22.2.}

Dan Haugen, Montana High School Association, Billings. Mr. Haugen submitted a sheet which included Quick Facts Equalized Spending. EXHIBIT 5.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 24.1.}

Charles Brooks, Billings Chamber of Commerce, Billings.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 25.9.}

John McNeil, President, School Administrators of Montana.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 27.2.}

Don Waldron, Montana Rural Education Association.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 29.9.}

Gloria Paladichuk, Richland County.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 30.7.}

Rosalie Buzzas, Missoula County Schools, Missoula.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 31.2.}

Larry Brewster, Billings School Board, Billings.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 36.3.}

Gary Griffith, Monforton School, Four Corners, Bozeman.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 38.7.}

Richard Stuker, School Trustee, Chinook.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 40.0.}

Rand Bradley, Twin Bridges.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 43.3.}

Mark Leatzow, Smith Valley School.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 45.1.}

REP. JOAN HURDLE, HD 13, Billings.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Tape Counter: 0.1.}

Steve Johnson, Bozeman Public Schools. Mr. Johnson submitted charts which showed the funding sources in the Bozeman public schools. EXHIBIT 6.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Tape Counter: 1.8.}

Phil Maxwell, Deer Lodge.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Tape Counter: 6.9.}

Doug Walsh, Superintendent of Schools, Ennis.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Tape Counter: 8.1.}

Opponents:

None.

Questions From the Committee:

None.

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. ELLIS closed the hearing on HB 47. Rep. Ellis submitted a chart of School District General Fund Budgets for Fiscal Year 1997. EXHIBIT 7.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Tape Counter: 10.7.}

HEARING ON HB 119

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. ED GRADY, HD 55, Canyon Creek, opened the hearing on HB 119, An act increasing by 4.71% the basic and per-ANB entitlements for school district funding.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Tape Counter: 16.8.}

Proponents:

Nancy Keenan, State Superintendent of Schools, Helena.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Tape Counter: 18.8.}

Eric Feaver, President, Montana Education Association, Helena.

Mr. Feaver submitted a copy of a memo from the East Middle School Staff in Butte, a copy of general fund budgets for Montana Education Association, and a newsletter, "How Long Can the Quality Last?". EXHIBITS 8, 9, 10.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Tape Counter: 26.2.}

Jay Erdie, District Superintendent, Roundup. Mr. Erdie offered his written testimony. EXHIBIT 11.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Tape Counter: 28.2.}

Mary Vagner, Missoula.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Tape Counter: 33.4.}

Cliff Roessner, Helena Public Schools. Mr. Roessner offered a sheet with showed the elementary and high school general fund revenues. EXHIBIT 12.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Tape Counter: 34.7.}

Dick Cameron, Superintendent of Schools, Harlem.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Tape Counter: 38.0.}

Lynda Brannon, Executive Director, Montana Association of School Business officials, Helena. Ms. Brannon offered her written testimony. EXHIBIT 13.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Tape Counter: 39.4.}

Sam Johnson, Ennis Schools.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Tape Counter: 40.5.}

Betty Beniger, East Helena Schools.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Tape Counter: 41.4.}

Allan Sipes, Superintendent of Schools, Reed Point.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Tape Counter: 41.9.}

Tonia Bloom, Corvallis.

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Alan Olson, Vice President, Montana School Board Association, Roundup. Mr. Olson offered his written testimony. **EXHIBIT 14.**  
{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 2.7.}

Larry Crowder, Saco.  
{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 5.7.}

Larry Brewster, Billings School Board, Billings.  
{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 7.0.}

Jay Eslick, Superintendent of Schools, Chinook.  
{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 7.9.}

Bob Vogel, School Board, Helena.  
{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 8.6.}

Dan Haugen, Montana High School Association, Billings.  
{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 10.8.}

Joan Perry, Corvallis.  
{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 13.1.}

Don Johnson, Helena School District.  
{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 13.3.}

Bernard Rosling, Somers School District.  
{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 15.4.}

John McNeil, President, School Administrators of Montana.  
{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 16.3.}

Doug Martens, Forsyth.  
{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 17.4.}

Don Waldron, Montana Rural Education Association. Mr. Waldron submitted a table of the Base Aid to Schools. **EXHIBIT 15.**  
{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 18.0.}

Bob Anderson, Montana School Board Association, Helena. Mr. Anderson submitted two letters, one from the Shields Valley Public Schools and one from Richard Martineau, from Stevensville. **EXHIBITS 16, 17.**  
{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 19.5.}

Donald Ross, Chinook School District.  
{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 22.1.}

Richard Stuker, School Trustee, Chinook.  
{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 24.6.}

Debra DuMontier, Arlee School Board.  
{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 25.0.}

Dicee Foultnier, Columbia Falls.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 26.4.}

Ben Lamb, Great Falls.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 27.1.}

Opponents:

None.

Questions From the Committee:

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 28.2.}

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. GRADY closed the hearing on HB 119.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Tape Counter: 38.9.}

HEARING ON HB 296

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. SAM KITZENBERG, HD 96, Glasgow, opened the hearing on HB 296, An act increasing the high school basic entitlement by \$9,000 and the elementary basic entitlement by \$7,810. REP. KITZENBERG submitted his written testimony. EXHIBIT 18.

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Tape Counter: 0.2.}

Proponents:

Don Waldron, Montana Rural Education Association.

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Tape Counter: 11.0.}

Allan Sipes, Superintendent of Schools, Reed Point.

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Tape Counter: 19.2.}

Opponents:

None.

Questions From the Committee:

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Tape Counter: 20.9.}

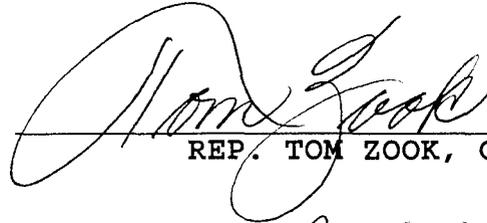
Closing by Sponsor:

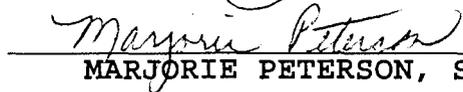
REP. KITZENBERG waived his privilege to close as he had to leave early for a doctor's appointment.

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Tape Counter: 38.6.}

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 6:00 p.m.

  
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REP. TOM ZOOK, Chairman

  
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MARJORIE PETERSON, Secretary

TZ/MP