

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE
55th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION & CULTURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: By CHAIRMAN DARYL TOEWS, on April 18, 1997, at
2:05 p.m., in Room 402.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Daryl Toews, Chairman (R)
Sen. Debbie Bowman Shea (D)
Sen. Wm. E. "Bill" Glaser (R)
Sen. John R. Hertel (R)
Sen. Barry "Spook" Stang (D)
Sen. Mignon Waterman (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Steve Doherty (D)
Sen. Delwyn Gage (R)
Sen. Loren Jenkins (R)
Sen. Mike Sprague (R)
Sen. Casey Emerson, Vice Chairman (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Eddy McClure, Legislative Services Division
Janice Soft, Committee Secretary

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

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: HJR 32; Posted 04/17/97
Executive Action: HJR 32

HEARING ON HJR 32

Sponsor: REP. RAY PECK, HD 91, Havre

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. RAY PECK, HD 91, Havre, said HJR 32 called for study of the public school funding system. He reminded the Committee this next year was when all public schools had to move into the window. He referred to Line 25 and said the House felt it would

be better to delete "education and taxation committees"; also, he called attention to Subsection (2) which indicated what the study may include. **REP. PECK** said one thing was to study the impact of federal education (Page 2, Line 5) because in so doing, more people would be better informed on how much it cost Montana to follow all the federal rules in order to receive the approximate \$60 million per year of federal aid. He said the study was to come up with answers to questions of the possibility of cutting costs, or if any of the requirements could be avoided.

REP. PECK referred to Page 2, Line 10, and listed the groups which would be involved, explaining "individuals" could include the professional association, taxpayers' association, etc. He said when it was considered public education would cost \$900 million in the next biennium, and when the costs of government were considered, this study would be a good place to begin.

Proponents' Testimony: None.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

SEN. MIGNON WATERMAN asked how this would interface with the Property Tax Committee in SB 195 because if that committee came out with something, it would have a profound affect on schools. **REP. RAY PECK** said HJR 32 had no money involved, but would have to be weighted in order to be enacted. However, both committees would have to be in contact with each other; in fact, there may have to be some cross membership. He reminded the Committee property tax was the foundation for the school funding program.

Closing by Sponsor: None.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJR 32

Motion/Vote: **SEN. MIGNON WATERMAN** MOVED HJR 32 BE ADOPTED.
Motion CARRIED 5-1 WITH **SEN. BILL GLASER** VOTING NO. **SEN. MIGNON WATERMAN** will carry HJR 32.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.



SEN DARYL TOEWS, Chairman



JANICE SOFT, Secretary

DT/JS