

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

January 17, 1977

The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m., with all members present.

House Bill 119 was discussed. Rep. Bradley, chief sponsor, said Montana has an adult education system whereby local boards of trustees can levy up to 1 mill for adult education with the approval of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. This measure proposes to broaden that concept and allow local boards to levy up to 2 mills to support adult or community education. Page 3 has the definition of community education.

Proponents of the bill were John W. Kohl, Leonard Sargent, Milton Negus, Gloria Gregg, Woodrow Wold, Patrick Binns, Kathleen Mollohan. Their testimony is attached.

Rep. Bradley, in closing, stressed that communities will not establish this program unless there is demand for it because it is placed in the hands of the elected trustees. The program is totally open to public direction under this bill.

House Bill 130 was discussed next. Rep. Moore, chief sponsor, said this bill will repeal a law passed last session that allows the Board of Regents to use a discretionary fund of 3 mills out of the 6-mill university levy for the support of community colleges. In 1968 the people voted to allow themselves to be taxed up to 6 mills for the support of the 6 units of the university system. The millage raised by this levy should be used only for the university system. Community colleges were supposed to be supported by tuition, fees and the people in the community, but state support is now at 65%. It is wrong to use 3 mills of the university millage to support community colleges.

There were no proponents. Opponents who testified were: Mrs. Jean Robocker, Mrs. Louise W. Kehoe, Richard C. Mattson, Bill Lannon and John Bartlett. Their testimony is attached.

Rep. Moore, in closing, said that he is not arguing the merits of community colleges. He is concerned with the fact that it is not fair to use money designated for the university system to support community colleges. There was some discussion about the amount of money this amounts to. There is a fiscal note on the bill which explains this. The Chairperson said there would be no action on the bill until the Committee receives the fiscal note.

The Committee then went into executive session to consider bills.

The subcommittee (Reps. Estenson, Hand and Barrett) appointed to amend House Bill 59 reported. The proposed amendments are attached. Rep. Estenson moved adopted of the amendments, and then amended her motion to strike section 3 entirely, as the material therein is contained elsewhere in the amendments. The

motion to adopt the amendments passed unanimously. After discussion, Rep. Lory moved that House Bill 59 DO PASS AS AMENDED. The motion passed with Rep. Gunderson voting NO.

House Bill 69 was discussed. Earl Barlowe, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Public Education, spoke in support of the bill. He said the Board is truly concerned about education in the state. They want to do what is best for the students. He gave a brief history of vocational education in the United States. Under Montana's Constitution, the Board is designated as the agency to administer vocational education. The Superintendent of Public Instruction feels that small schools will have to suffer financial cutbacks and will be deluged with paperwork if HB 69 is passed. The Board would try to minimize these problems. Also, small schools have been told that this bill will result in fragmentation of public school services in Montana. The Board thinks just the opposite will happen. They will have control over all programs.

Dr. Key read P.L. 94-42, which says the state board is the agency to handle vocational education funds in the state. Rep. Gunderson said he wants to get the problem straightened out and if House Bill 69 is killed he will submit another bill to place administration of vocational education totally under the Superintendent. Mr. Sergeant said the School Boards Association supports the idea that the Board of Public Education should be the sole agency for vocational education.

Rep. Lory moved that House Bill 69 be passed for the day. The motion passed with Reps. Gilligan, Estenson and Kessler voting NO.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

ANN MARY DUSSAULT, Chairperson

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 59,

introduced bill, be amended as follows:

1. Amend the title, page 1, line 6.

Following: "SERVICE"

Strike: ", AT MINIMUM WAGE,"

Insert: "FOR COMPENSATION"

2. Amend the title, page 1, line 8.

Following: "43-726"

Insert: ", 43-727"

3. Amend page 1.

Following: line 17.

Insert: "Section 2. Section 43-727, R.C.M. 1947, is amended to read as follows:

"43-727. Legislative council--establish guidelines and staff assistance. (1) Each legislative intern is subject to guidelines established by the legislative council.

(2) Each intern shall be assigned to the legislative council for 10 hours a week during the 10-week term to assist in a legislative staff task assigned by the executive director of the legislative council. Staff members of the legislative council shall assist interns so assigned in learning the rudiments of legislative research. Compensation for this work shall be set by the legislative council."

Renumber: Subsequent sections.

4. Amend page 1, section 2, line 21.

Following: "to"

Strike: "his or her"

Insert: "the intern's"

5. Amend page 2, section 3, lines 4 and 5.

Following: "council."

Strike: "The intern shall be paid the minimum wage for the work."