

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

January 24, 1977

The Committee was called to order at 3:30 p.m., with all members present except Rep. Kennerly, who was absent.

House Joint Resolution 16 was discussed. Rep. Brand, chief sponsor, said this resolution was introduced because there is a problem with some children. Twin Bridges school was closed down too soon and there was no place to put some problem children. He contacted several different agencies to try to solve the problem but none of them knew what the other was doing. This resolution was drawn up for Rep. Brand by OSPI to try to get coordination.

Bill Hickey, representing OSPI, testified in favor of the resolution but suggested that page 1, line 25 through page 2 line 5 should be deleted. The definitions are ambiguous and do not conform with state and federal definitions (a copy of each is attached). Mr. Hickey said that he has been assigned to follow up on these problems. The other agencies involved are Department of Institutions and SRS (DD Bureau and Children's Bureau). The law has never said OSPI could not handle children from 0-2. It was a policy decision that they would not be handled until the programs for 3-21 had been settled. Mrs. Rice has authorized the age limit to be lowered. Mr. Hickey said that his private opinion is that OSPI could handle many services with the exception of medical or DD problems. If the DD Bureau handles this age group, a problem would be that many children with hearing or sight problems are not covered under DD laws.

The increase in budget this would entail would be around 10 FTE, approximately \$200,000 per year. This is just a guess. He said probably no one would be added to the SPI staff, the additions would be in the major public schools or regional services staff.

A suggestion was made that maybe there should be a MII/MR Coordinator position established again in the Governor's Office to coordinate the efforts of the 4 human services agencies.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

ANN MARY DUSSAULT, Chairperson