

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

February 11, 1977

The meeting was called to order at 4:40 p.m., with all members present except Reps. Gilligan and Kennerly, who were excused.

HJR 33 was discussed first. Rep. Lund, chief sponsor, said the resolution is self-explanatory. He introduced Jessie Hames, Darryl Gray, Gerald Gray, who spoke as proponents. Other proponents were Mae Nan Ellingson, Bill Lannon, Art Hunthausen. Their testimony is attached.

HJR 45 was discussed next. Rep. Driscoll, chief sponsor, said the resolution will set the stage for the next Legislature to give more consideration to the arts. There are 3 parts to the resolution. The first is to commission a study, which the Montana Arts Council will pay for. The second is that the MAC would report to the Legislature during the interim. The third is that the Legislative committee would be repsonsible for monitoring the study and approving the final report. He introduced Bruce Midgett, JoAnn Daily, Kay Burkhardt and David Nelson and Kathleen Mollahan, who spoke as proponents of the bill. Their testimony is attached.

House Bill 596 was discussed next. Bob Stockton explained it for Rep Sheldon, chief sponsor. He said the Montana School Business Officials Association requested the bill. If money is refunded for any reason, the school district loses the spending power. They cannot put it back into their budgets and spend it again, even if it is there. The bill would allow them to spend refunds or rebates.

HJR 44 was discussed next. Rep. Moore, chief sponsor, said the resolution deals with the license application procedure for proprietary schools. The personnel data form has a space on it for approval of the bureau chief. Rep. Moore thinks the bureau chief has no right to approve or disapprove the person's application because the U.S. Office of Education accredits the teachers. He said he believes it is the responsibility of the school to provide the education they say they will. Mr. James Burns, Department of Business Regulation, etstified as an opponent of the bill. His testimony is attached.

House Bill 619 was discussed next. Rep. South, chief sponsor, said the bill is a necessary revision of the laws relating to community college districts. He said it is important to poss the bill right away before the colleges have to set their budgets. Proponents were Bill Lannon, Jack Noble, Jim Hoffman, Rick Champoux, Dick Mattson and Vern Kailey. Their testimony is attached.

The Committee went into Executive Session to consider bills.

House Bill 649 - Rep. Estenson explained the attached amendment. Rep. Lory moved to adopt it. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Estenson then moved that the bill DO PASS AS AMENDED. The motion passed unanimously (Reps. Kennerly and Gilligan excused).

HJR 18 - Rep. Barrett moved that the attached amendments be adopted. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Estenson then moved that the bill DO PASS AS AMENDED. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further buinsess, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

ANN MARY DUSSAULT, Chairperson