

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

March 15, 1977

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m., with all members present except Rep. Kennerly, who was absent.

Senate Bill 188 was discussed first. Senator Thomas, chief sponsor, said the bill would raise the reimbursement from 12 to 15 cents a mile that parents receive for transporting their children to school when there is no school bus system. It also adds a clause that each trip is reimburseable separately. Transporting children will cost \$1.25 per mile in Great Falls and it is very expensive if there are not a lot of children on the bus. It is cheaper to pay the parents. Bob Stockton testified in support, saying the bill raises the rate and puts back in the clause that was omitted inadvertently last session. The Committee discussed House Bill 649, which addresses the same subject. The consensus was to pass the Senate bill and ask the Appropriations Committee to table the House bill.

The Committee went into Executive Session to consider bills.

Senate Bill 188 - Rep. Lory moved that the bill BE CONCURRED IN. The motion was passed unanimously.

Senate Bill 421 - Rep. Meyer submitted amendments, which are attached. Mr. Lannon said he has no objection to them. Federal definition includes all postsecondary institutions and mandates that non-profit schools participate but we still don't know if proprietary schools will be admitted. He thinks the amendment does not mandate that the Commissioner award financial assistance to students in proprietary schools. The federal government publishes a directory of postsecondary schools eligible for other federal assistance. Rep. Barrett moved adoption of the amendments. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Lory moved that the bill BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Lory will carry the bill on the floor of the House.

The Chairperson said there are interim study topics that the committee might consider submitting a resolution on--the governance structure of the BPE and SPI, and state assumption of the cost and authority for postsecondary vocational education centers. Rep. Estenson said the studies should be separate and should include SPI staff as well as as many others as possible. The committee discussed studies and whether they are efficacious at all. The Chairperson will check with the Senate to find out if they are planning resolutions on these topics.

Rep. Dussault said her amendments to the foundation program schedules put in an escape clause and give responsibility and authority to the BPE to determine criteria. Requests for excess spending would be reviewed by the Legislative Fiscal Interim Committee. The SPI would have final authority, however. The problem with that is that she would have a conflict of interest.