

State of Montana
46th Legislative Session

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

A meeting of the Education Committee of the House of Representatives was called to order at 11:30 a.m. in Room 5 of the Capitol Annex on Monday, February 19, 1979 by Chairman Peter J. Gilligan.

The roll was taken and shows all committee members present.

The purpose of the meeting was to hear House Bills 328, 811, 855 and 864.

Chairman Gilligan requested Representative Ellerd to explain to the committee House Bill 328 (an act to authorize the charging of tuition to resident and non-resident students at postsecondary vocational technical centers by the Board of Public Education and authorizing the Board of Public Education to prescribe the uses of the tuition).

Proponents of the bill were:

Ellen Feaver, 901 Flowerree, Helena, Mt. (Legislative Auditor's Office)- Ms. Feaver spoke briefly in support of HB 328 and told the committee she would be glad to answer questions concerning fiscal impact of the bill. (See Exhibit 1)

There were no opponents of the bill present. The committee was allowed to question the witnesses and the hearing was closed.

Representative Porter was asked by Chairman Gilligan to explain to the committee House Bill 811 (an act to increase the reimbursement rate for school bus and individual and isolated transportation costs).

Proponents of House Bill 811 were:

Bob Stockton, Administrator, Department of Financial Services, Office of Public Instruction, Helena, Mt. - Mr. Stockton explained the bill to the committee and stated the Office of Public Instruction supports the bill.

There were no opponents of HB 811 present. The committee was allowed to question the witnesses and the hearing was closed.

Chairman Gilligan requested Representative Daily to explain to the committee House Bill 864 (an act to allow the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Board of Public Education to adopt a specialist certificate for teachers and administrators).

Proponents of House Bill 864 were:

Alve Thomas, Deputy Superintendent, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Helena, Mt. - "At the present time, there are five classifications of certificates for teachers and administrators. This bill would permit the Board of Public Education to adopt policies for a class six that would include specialists working in the schools particularly in the area of special education." (For complete written testimony, See Exhibit 2)

There were no opponents of House Bill 864 present. The committee was allowed to question the witnesses and the hearing was closed.

Chairman Gilligan asked Representative Azzara to explain to the committee House Bill 855 (an act relating to certification of teachers in the public schools of Montana and to teacher education institutions and programs; creating a teacher standards and practices board; and raising teacher certification fees).

Proponents of HB 855 were:

Philip Campbell, Montana Education Association, 1232 Sixth Ave., Helena, Mt. - Mr. Campbell stated, "The MEA supports HB 855 to create a new board so Montana's teachers can have an effective voice in teacher certification." (See Exhibit 3)

John Board, 1500 17th St. S., Great Falls, Mt. - (President, Montana Education Association) - Mr. Board told the committee he feels this bill would give teachers an opportunity to have some meaningful input into professional matters. (See Exhibit 4)

Opponents of House Bill 855 were:

Leonard H. Sargent, Executive Director, Montana School Boards Association, Helena, Mt. - Mr. Sargent told the committee, "The Montana School Boards Association stands in opposition to HB 855 as has been our position during the past history of this legislation. The position of the MSBA is based on several philosophical beliefs...Members of the committee, two previous legislatures have not found this measure acceptable, even after a two-year interim study. We have the necessary structure to do exactly what needs to be done regarding teacher education and certification through the Board of Education (the Board of Public Education and the Board of Regents). There is no need to set up another board to do essentially the same things." (For complete written testimony, See Exhibit 5)

T. Carl Johnson, School Administrators of Montana, Helena, Mt. - "SAM supports the testimony as presented by the MSBA. MSBA's rationale for opposing this bill clearly points out the pitfalls that are carried in this bill if it should become law. The present system of teacher preparation and certification is working quite well and allows for any group to supply input into the regulations." (See Exhibit 6)

Irving Dayton, Deputy Commissioner of Higher Education, Commissioner of Higher Education's Office, Helena, Mt. - Mr. Dayton spoke briefly in opposition to HB 855.

The committee was allowed to question the witnesses and the hearing on House Bill 855 was closed.

The Education Committee went into Executive Session at this time. Representative Oberg moved that HOUSE BILL 328 DO PASS. The motion carried unanimously.

Representative Eudaily moved that HOUSE BILL 811 DO PASS. The motion carried unanimously.

Representative Porter moved that HOUSE BILL 864 DO PASS. The motion carried unanimously.

Representative Anderson moved that House Bill 105 Do Pass. There was discussion among the committee members. Representative Oberg made a substitute motion that HOUSE BILL 105 DO NOT PASS. The motion carried with Representatives Kvaalen, Anderson and Pistoria voting no.

Representative Lory moved to AMEND House Bill 480, to clarify the language of the bill. The motion carried unanimously. Representative Lory moved AS AMENDED, HOUSE BILL 480 DO PASS. The motion carried unanimously.

Representative Oberg moved to Table House Bill 295. Representative Lund made a substitute motion that HOUSE BILL 295 DO PASS. There was discussion among the committee members. Representative Oberg withdrew his motion. The substitute motion carried with Representatives Oberg and Uhde voting no.

Representative Kemmis moved to AMEND House Bill 880 to require no more than 3 credit hours of Indian Studies instruction. The motion carried 8-6, with Representatives Lory, Reichert, Daily, Teague, Pistoria and Oberg voting no. Representative Uhde moved that HOUSE BILL 880, AS AMENDED, DO PASS. The motion carried, 16-1 with Representative Oberg voting no.

Representative Uhde moved that HOUSE BILL 855 DO PASS. The motion carried, 9-7, with Representatives Uhde, Porter, Eudaily, Lund, Nordtvedt, Lory, and Kvaalen voting no.

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.


Peter J. Gilligan, Jr., Chairman