

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 12:30 p.m. in Room 5 of the Capitol Annex on Friday, March 9, 1979 by Chairman Peter J. Gilligan.

The roll was taken and shows Representative Lund excused. All other committee members were present.

The purpose of the meeting was to hear Senate Bills 276, 203, 126, and 178.

Chairman Gilligan requested Senator Turnage to explain to the committee Senate Bill 178 (an act requiring that courses be taught on the health hazards of marijuana). Senator Turnage passed out information to the committee he had received from a study researched by the Legislative Auditor's office concerning marijuana. (See Exhibit 1)

Proponents of Senate Bill 178 were:

Lyle Eggum, Office of Public Instruction, Helena, Mt. - Mr. Eggum stated, "The bill has been amended to be discretionary for districts to comply. Many districts have in place a unit of instruction with in the current curriculum. This bill now serves as a reminder that some emphasis needs to be placed on the topic. We do have concerns about legislated curriculum, however, the discretionary emphasis for local districts provides the decision making at the local elvel where it should be. (See Exhibit 2)

There were no opponents of SB 178 present. The committee was allowed to question the witnesses and the hearing on SB 178 was closed.

Chairman Gilligan requested Senator Brown to explain to the committee Senate Bill 276 (an act to allow state and local educational agencies to administer, plan, develop, operate and improve programs designed to meet the special needs of gifted and talented children).

Proponents of SB 276 were:

Judi Fenton, 906 Oregon, Helena, Mt. (Office of Public Instruction) Ms. Fenton stated, "Montana's gifted and talented youth may be our most precious natural resource....Therefore it is imperative to exert necessary leadership to insure that the needs of Montana's gifted and talented youth are met." (For complete written testimony, See Exhibit 3)

Wayne Buchanan, Montana School Boards Association, 501 N. Sanders, Helena, Mt. - Mr. Buchanan spoke breifly in support of SB 276. (See Exhibit 4)

Phil Campbell, Montana Education Association, 1232 E. Sixth Ave., Helena, Mt. - Mr. Campbell told the committee his organization supports this bill.

T.C. Johnson, School Administrators of Montana, Helena, Mt. - Mr. Johnson told the committee SAM supports this bill.
(See Exhibit 5)

George Camp. 2314 5th St. # 2, Missoula, Mt. - Mr. Camp stated, "There are more than 15 school districts of all sizes in Montana who have or have developed plans for gifted and talented programs. There is need for support of these educational efforts for our talented. (See Exhibit 6)

Representative Reichert spoke in support of the gifted and talented programs and urged the committee to pass this bill.

Harriet Meloy, Chairperson, State Board of Public Education, Helena, Mt. - Ms. Meloy stated, "Board members acted in January to formally support gifted and talented legislation. We are extremely cognizant of the fiscal stringency which this legislative session faces and are therefore very reluctant to propose any new programs. The Board feels, however, that the time for a state program to help serve the needs of gifted and talented children is past due." (For complete written testimony, See Exhibit 7)

Testimony in support of SB 276 received in writing is attached as Exhibits 8 & 9)

There were no opponents of SB 276 present. The committee was allowed to question the witnesses and the hearing was closed.

Senator McCallum was requested by Chairman Gilligan to explain to the committee Senate Bill 203 (an act permitting the trustees to negotiate renewal school bus contracts without calling for bids if contract cost increases do not exceed 8%).

Proponents of Senate Bill 203 were:

Chad Smith, Montana School Boards Association, 501 N. Sanders, Helena, Mt. - Mr. Smith briefly highlighted the major points of the bill and urged passage. (See Exhibit 10)

Jim Watkins, Educational Service Representative, Office of Public Instruction, Helena, Mt. - Mr. Watkins stated, "The increase is a more realistic figure for securing good bus contractors and certainly improves the chances of providing good local bus services." (For complete written testimony, See Exhibit 11)

Wayne Buchanan, Montana School Boards Association, 501 N. Sanders, Helena, Mt. - Mr. Buchanan reiterated points made in Mr. Watkins testimony and urged passage of SB 203. (See Exhibit 12)

There were no opponents to SB 203 present. The committee was allowed to question the witnesses and the hearing was closed.

Chairman Gilligan requested Senator Blaylock to explain to the committee Senate Bill 126 (an act to generally revise the law relating to education.) Senator Blaylock told the committee this bill was introduced at the request of the Code Commissioner and clarifies the laws relating to education. An explanation of the bill is attached as Exhibit 13.

There were no proponents or opponents of SB 126 present. The committee was allowed to question Senator Blaylock and the hearing was closed.

The committee went into Executive Session.

Representative Reichert moved SENATE BILL 276 BE CONCURRED IN. The motion carried 15-1, with Representative Kvaalen voting no.

Representative Eudaily moved that SENATE BILL 203 BE CONCURRED IN. The motion carried with Representatives Yardley, Uhde, and Nordtvedt voting no.

There was discussion among the members of the committee regarding Senate Bill 178. Representative Eudaily moved SENATE BILL 178 BE CONCURRED IN. The motion failed, 5 voting yes, 10 voting no. The motion was reversed to SENATE BILL 178 BE NOT CONCURRED IN. The motion carried 10-5, with Representatives Pistoria, Daily, Teague, Eudaily and Lory voting no.

Representative Lund moved Senate Bill 273 Be Not Concurred In. Representative Kvaalen made a substitute motion SENATE BILL 273 BE CONCURRED IN. The motion carried, 8-7, with Representatives Uhde, Reichert, Kemmis, Oberg, Teague, Yardley, and Anderson voting no.


Representative Uhde moved to amend Senate Bill 2 by striking the section reducing the amount of funds received by districts receiving federal forest reserve funds in that amount. The motion carried 8-6, with Representatives Oberg, Daily, Teague, Yardley, Anderson and Gilligan voting no. Representative Eudaily moved to amend SB 2 back to the original 9.2% funding schedules. The motion carried, 13-3, 1 abstaining. Those voting no were Representatives Pistoria, Nordtvedt and Kvaalen. Representative Eudaily moved that SENATE BILL 2, AS AMENDED, BE CONCURRED IN. The motion carried unanimously.

Representative Lory moved to amend SB 262 to make proportionately based distribution of funds from federal forest reserve lands. The motion carried 11-5, with Representatives Daily, Yardley, Nordtvedt, Kvaalen and Gilligan voting no. Representative Lory moved that SENATE BILL 262 AS AMENDED, BE CONCURRED IN. The motion carried 9-7, with Representatives Reichert, Oberg, Daily, Teague, Yardley, Kvaalen and Gilligan voting no.

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Representative Lory moved SENATE BILL 126 BE CONCURRED IN.
The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.


Peter J. Gilligan, Jr., Chairman

MJW