

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

5:05 P.M.
April 20, 1979
Room 104
State Capitol Building
Subject: HB 927

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 P.M. by Chairman Bardanouye. All members of the committee were present with the exception of Representatives Lund and Marks who were excused, and Representative Yardley who was absent.

Chairman Bardanouye presented Representative Jay Fabrega, the sponsor of House Bill 927.

Representative Fabrega stated that his bill addresses the problem of a gymnasium facility at the deaf and blind school in Great Falls. He said that the committee has heard the need for the project before. This bill simply changes the method of financing. It takes the financing out of the educational trust fund created under Section 90-6-211. Representative Fabrega went on to say that the Deaf and Blind School has been waiting for at least 6 years for a new gymnasium. The gym is in deplorable shape. He said that the children should have an adequate gym so that they can receive that part of their training as well as a regular education.

Chairman Bardanouye questioned the language of the bill and wondered if we could amend another section of a law in order to make an appropriation bill legal.

Representative South suggested we should propose the amendment on the floor. At this time, the following Representatives rose in support of the bill: Representatives Helen O'Connell, Joe Tropila, John Staigmiller, Darrell Meyer, Wes Teague, Jonas Rosenthal, William Menahan, and Dick Manning. Also rising in support of the bill was Floyd McDowell from the School for the Deaf and Blind in Great Falls.

There were no further proponents and no opponents to the bill.

At this point Representative Hurwitz asked if we would be using coal tax money for this and Representative Fabrega stated that in 1975 when 30% of the coal tax was paid, 25% of that was set aside in a trust fund. He went on to explain that anything not used there was put into a so-called educational trust fund.

Representative Hurwitz asked how much money is in the trust fund and Representative Fabrega said that is about 15 million dollars.

Representative Bengston asked if we would be paying for this out of the interest on the educational trust fund. Representative Fabrega said that this will come off the principal.

April 20, 1979
Page Two

There were no further questions from the committee and Representative Fabrega closed.

At this time the committee took executive action with Representative Manning making a motion that House Bill 927, as amended, Do Pass. After discussion between the committee members, Representative Manning withdrew his motion. Representative Moore then made a motion that House Bill 927 Do Pass. With Representative Kvaalen absent and Representatives Bengston, Hurwitz, South, Wood and Bardanouye voting No, the motion carried.

There was no further business and the chairman entertained a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

Chairman

Robert A. Stepaniak
Secretary