

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
February 23, 1979

The Senate Education Committee met Friday, February 23, 1979, in Room 402 of the Capitol Building. Senator Bob Brown, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:21 a.m. Committee members present were Senators Brown, Ed Smith, Thomas, O'Hara, Richard Smith, Anderson, Fasbender, and Blaylock. Senator McCallum and Severson were absent.

The committee heard the following bills: House Bill 296, House Bill 485, and House Bill 561.

HOUSE BILL 296

Representative Lund, sponsor, stated the bill seeks to bring Montana law into conformance with the federal law. 874 funds, which are federal impact monies received only by Malmstrom Air Force Base and the Indian reservations are presently included in the school district levies. If the levy fails, the district cannot spend the 847 monies. Senator Melcher introduced the Brocton amendment in Congress, which passed, that allows school districts to expend 874 monies even if the levy fails.

PROPONENTS

Bob Stockton, representing the Office of Public Instruction, stated they appreciated Representative Lund's sponsorship of the bill. He said Frasier and Brockton were two schools that lost their levies and consequently their 874 funds. Brockton lost 40% of their total budget dollars as a result. He reiterated the bill is designed to conform to the federal legislation.

Wayne Buchanan, representing the Montana School Boards Association, echoed Mr. Stockton's testimony and said it is a good bill and they support it.

There were no further proponents and no opponents to the bill. The hearing was closed and discussion ensued.

Senator Ed Smith moved Senate Bill 296 Be Concurred In. The motion carried unanimously. Senator Ed Smith will carry the bill on the floor.

SENATE BILL 485

Representative Lund, sponsor, asked Bob Stockton to explain the bill.

Bob Stockton, representing the Office of Public Instruction,

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stated the bill is designed to straighten out the problems with the Attorney General's opinion re 7th and 8th grade funding. It was the intent of the Legislature in the original legislation that equalization occur between middle schools and high schools. But, as a result of the Attorney General's opinion the middle schools received their funding based on the high school rate. This bill would cause middle school funding to be based on the high school schedule using the total ANB of the elementary school where the middle school is located. He further stated that as things are now, some schools are underfunded and some exceedingly over funded and this has caused an increase of \$1,115,000 in the foundation program.

#### PROPOSERS

Wayne Buchanan, representing the Montana School Boards Association, stated the bill clarifies the ruling for the funds and they support it.

There being no further proposers and no opponents, the hearing was closed and discussion ensued.

Senator Anderson moved House Bill 485 Be Concurred In. The motion carried unanimously. Senator Fasbender will carry the bill.

#### SENATE BILL 516

Representative Lund asked Bob Stockton, representing the Office of Public Instruction to present the bill. Mr. Stockton said the bill establishes a revolving fund in OPI for funds derived from the sale of services and educational materials provided by the division of resources and assessment. The funds would be used to help in the operational costs of the division. Up to now, federal funds have paid for the division, but those funds are being phased out completely and it was hoped that by charging for services and depositing those funds in a revolving fund instead of them going into the general fund, the cost to the state for the program would be minimized.

#### PROPOSERS

Bill Connell, Manager of the Division of Resources and Assessment, OPI, explained the function of the Division. He said they furnish materials and information to schools and programs in state and out of state and do computer searches through a data base in California. They felt they could recover some of the costs of the service through the charge and also felt that a charge is fair

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as some schools utilize the service and others don't.

There were no proponents and no opponents to the bill. The hearing was closed and discussion ensued. The committee asked the representative from OPI to provide them some further facts and figures on the program and will review them at a later date.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to reconvene Wednesday, February 28, 1979 at 1:00 p.m.

Bob Brown  
Senator Bob Brown, Chairman

jdr

HB 296

Lund

This bill authorizes school districts to increase their budget above the maximum budget allowed by law with federal money. The district would not have to have a vote to use these federal funds for the school budget. Currently, school districts may use federal money to reduce the amount of voted levy if the voters of the district so authorize such use.

HB 485

Lund

House Bill 485 revises the law relating to special funding for 7th and 8th grade middle schools. Currently middle schools ANB is funded at the high school rate. This law is revised to read that a middle school funding is determined from the high school schedule using the total ANB of the elementary school where the middle school is included.

HB 516

Lund

This bill creates a revolving fund in the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The fund will be derived from the sale of educational materials and services provided by the division of resources and assessment. The funds shall be deposited in the resources and assessment revolving fund. The funds are to be used to operate the division.

Date 2/23/79

ROLL CALL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

46th LEGISLATIVE SESSION - 1979

Each Day Attach to Minutes.

DATE:

2/23/79

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

VISITORS' REGISTER

NAME: Phil Shiff DATE: 2/16/79

ADDRESS: *641*

PHONE: 449-3167

REPRESENTING WHOM? 677

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: 296-485-516

DO YOU: SUPPORT?  AMEND?  OPPOSE?

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME: Chelsea Bickham DATE: Oct. 20

DATE:

ADDRESS: 507 4th Street, S.

PHONE: 442-2180

REPRESENTING WHOM? MSBA

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: SF 286 4-22-85

DO YOU: SUPPORT?  AMEND?  OPPOSE?

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: Bill Bennett DATE: 2/22/19

ADDRESS: Office of Public Information

PHONE: 4149-3693

REPRESENTING WHOM? OPF

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: HES516

DO YOU: SUPPORT? ✓ AMEND? \_\_\_\_\_ OPPOSE? \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

February 23, 1979

MR. President

We, your committee on Education

having had under consideration House Bill No. 235

Respectfully report as follows: That House Bill No. 235

BE CONCURRED IN

DO PASS

# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

February 23, 1979

MR. President.....

We, your committee on Education.....

having had under consideration House..... Bill No. 435.....

Respectfully report as follows: That House..... Bill No. 435.....

BE CONCURRED IN

DQ:PASSIN