

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
March 5, 1979

The Senate Education Committee met Monday, March 5, 1979, in Room 402 of the Capitol Building. Senator Bob Brown, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Committee members present were Senators Ed Smith, Thomas, O'Hara, Richard Smith, Anderson, Severson, Fasbender, McCallum, and Brown. Senator Blaylock was absent.

The following bills were heard: House Bill 328
House Bill 408
House Bill 460
House Bill 480

HOUSE BILL 408

Representative Vinger, sponsor of the bill, reviewed the bill section by section. He stated the bill provides for an act of God and emergency situations by allowing a school district to receive equalization aid even though it has failed to conduct instruction for the presently prescribed 180 days if such a failure is due to an unforeseen emergency and the district has made up at least 3 of the days lost.

PROPOSAL

Alve Thomas, representing the Office of Public Instruction, said OPI had received over 400 requests for change in calendar or conducting school on Saturday in order to make up lost days. They are in favor of the county superintendent making the decision as to emergency situations. Mr. Thomas supported the bill stating the three day provision is good.

Bob Richards, Superintendent, Lambert Schools, presented his written testimony in support of the bill to the committee (attachment #1).

Phil Campbell, representing the Montana Education Association, stated that Association's support for the bill.

Wayne Buchanan, representing the Montana School Boards Association, stated he supported the previous testimony. He said, as a former educator, he knew first hand of the problems that exist when you are forced to hold classes during vacations and on Saturdays. He said the educational quality on those days is low and feels with the provisions in the bill, that could be avoided and abuse of the privilege would be nil. He said emergencies do occur and school districts should not penalized because of them.

Lynette Irigain, a student at Lambert, stated she lives 22 miles from school on gravel roads. She stated many times students must stay in town for several days due to bad weather and roads and they don't study as they should. She said further that kids don't try to learn on Saturdays. She felt both students and teachers

Page 2
Minutes
March 5, 1979

try harder during weekdays. She also has been stuck in the bus during a blizzard and said it is a very frightening experience to be stuck and not have any idea where you are.

Senator Ed Smith stated the same problems exist with weather and roads in Dagmar and Medicine Lake and he felt there needs to be some remedy such as the bill provides for the schools.

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

Senator O'Hara moved House Bill 408 Be Concurred In. The motion carried unanimously with Senators Blaylock and Richard Smith absent.

HOUSE BILL 480

Representative Pistoria, sponsor of the bill, said it requires that the exact purpose of a proposed school bond be made known to the voters before a school bond election. He stated many citizens question the expenditures and if the purpose is plainly stated they will be more likely to approve the bond. He stated the explanation should include only the major items, not the minor details.

PROPONENTS

Wayne Buchanan, representing the Montana School Boards Association, said the Legislative Committee of the Association discussed the bill and felt if districts aren't plainly stating what they want money for then they should be and therefore they support the bill.

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

HOUSE BILL 460

Representative Thoft, sponsor of the bill, stated the bill provides for ANB funding to be on a current year level. Presently it is determined on the enrollment of the last three years. He said this bill would affect only those schools with an unusual projected increase in enrollment, not those schools who remain stable or have a declining enrollment.

PROPONENTS

Bob Stockton, representing the Office of Public Instruction, stated the law as it is works well, but when a sudden influx of students developed the law broke down in those schools with an increase in the second and third years. It meant that emergency budgets had to be developed and adopted. That is an awkward procedure and this bill would give a more orderly procedure for school budgeting in cases of rapid growth.

Page 3
Minutes
March 5, 1979

Bob Laumeyer, Superintendent of the Boulder Public Schools, stated his enrollment had increased 8-12% over the last three years. He said in order to qualify for the ANB increase he would have to show a 20% increase which is the result of student dollars being one year behind the student.

Bill Willavize, representing the Florence-Carlton School, presented his written testimony in support of the bill to the committee (attachment #2).

Representative Gene Donaldson said he supported the bill and the provision for projection of enrollment by documentation. He said it is a good feature in the bill and can be quite accurate. He said the 80% level is in the bill in case the projection does prove to be wrong. The foundation program works fine for stable growth but with inflation and growth, educational quality declines.

Jack Bennett, School District #3, Helena, urged support of the bill. He said in his valley district the growth has been tremendous. If subdivisions proposed for his area are approved there will be 100 to 300 new homes in his district in the next two years and the bill would certainly be helpful.

Joe Screnar, Clerk, East Helena Schools, urged support of the bill. He said his district is also experiencing a rapid growth in population and 650 homes in two subdivisions which have already been approved will only compound the problem. There are already 100 new homes under construction and the projected enrollment from them will fill the schools to capacity.

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

HOUSE BILL 328

Representative Ellerd, sponsor of the bill, could not be present and therefore Ellen Feaver, Legislative Auditor's Office, presented the bill for him on behalf of the Legislative Audit Committee. She said the bill defines "fees" as opposed to "tuition". She said that at the vo-tech schools a \$40 fee is charged which is actually tuition. This bill would clarify that situation and puts the authority in the Board of Public Education.

There were no proponents and no opponents to the bill and the hearing was closed.

Page 4
Minutes
March 5, 1979

Senator Thomas moved House Bill 328 Be Concurred In. The motion carried unanimously with Senators Smith and Blaylock absent.

Senator Richard Smith entered the meeting.

HOUSE BILL 485

Senator McCallum moved to amend the bill as per the attached committee report (attachment #3). The motion carried on a roll call vote with Senators Richard Smith, Fasbender and Brown voting no (see attached roll call vote #4).

Senator Fasbender moved House Bill 485 Be Concurred In As Amended. The motion carried on a role call vote with Senators Ed Smith, Richard Smith, and McCallum voting no (see attached roll call vote #5).

RECONSIDERATION OF ACTION ON HOUSE BILL 408

Due to some errors in the bill discovered by Bob Pyfer, Legislative Council, the bill was reconsidered for amendment. Senator Ed Smith moved to amend the bill as per the amendments on the attached committee report #6. The motion carried unanimously with Senator Blaylock absent.

Senator Ed Smith moved House Bill 408 Be Concurred In As Amended. The motion carried unanimously with Senator Blaylock absent.

HOUSE BILL 480

Senator Severson moved House Bill 480 Be Not Concurred In.

Senator McCallum made a substitute motion to lay House Bill 480 on the table. The motion carried on a roll call vote (see attached roll call vote #7).

HOUSE BILL 162

Senator O'Hara moved House Bill 162 Be Concurred In. The motion carried on a roll call vote (see attached roll call vote #8).

There being no further business, the meeting was closed to reconvene Wednesday, March 7, at 1:00 p.m.



Senator Bob Brown, Chairman

Date 3/5/79

ROLL CALL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

46th LEGISLATIVE SESSION - 1979

Each Day Attach to Minutes.

VISITORS' REGISTER

NAME	REPRESENTING	BILL #	Check Support
Bill Willavize	Florence Carter School	HB 460	✓
Richard Diele	Lambert Public School	HB 408	✓
Janet Mandy	Lambert Public School	"	✓
Philip Piervot	Lambert Public School	"	✓
Allen Rossoen	Lambert Public School	"	—
Syrette Dugan	Lambert Public School	"	✓
Grace Rauschendorfer	Lambert Public School	"	✓
Denice Caila	Lambert Public School	"	✓
Genevieve Faucher	Lambert Public School	"	✓
Theresa Roberts	Lambert Public School	HB 460	✓
Sonnie Musin	Lambert Public School	"	✓
Newell Rossoen	Lambert High School	"	✓
Angela Caschka	Lambert Public School	"	✓
Denice Peltier	—	460	✓
Janet Waite	New High School, Nelson MT.	460	—
Bonni Besdorff	Lambert Public School	HB 408	—
Ellen Gidder	Legislative Auditor Office	HB 328	✓
D. M. Manning	FRD ID. MT.	408	✓
Bill Campbell	MEA		
Alce Thomas	OPT	408	—
Whepe Buchanan	MSBA	408	✓

NAME: Pat Green & Baby DATE: 3/1/99

ADDRESS: 1949 Canyon

PHONE: 443-5407

REPRESENTING WHOM? Def #3

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: H.B. 405

DO YOU: SUPPORT? X AMEND? _____ OPPOSE? _____

COMMENTS: _____

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME: Robert Richards DATE: March 5, 1977

ADDRESS: Lambert Hill

PHONE: 774-3395

REPRESENTING WHOM? Lambert School

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: H.B. 418

DO YOU: SUPPORT Yes AMEND? OPPOSE?

COMMENTS: That in view of the fact that the

offer the small school districts of the
state to close school during the winter

months and close without the consent of
attending parents one or more days during
the winter closing date. For the small

by having action on that date cannot
the closing date are at best undesirable
in educational value.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME: Bill Witzke DATE: 3/5/79

ADDRESS: Florin C

PHONE: 273-6751 Office

REPRESENTING WHOM? Florin-Carlton School

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: HB 466

DO YOU: SUPPORT? ✓ AMEND? _____ OPPOSE? _____

COMMENTS: See written comments



Florence-Carlton Consolidated Schools

DISTRICT 15 AND 6 • FLORENCE, MONTANA 59833 • 406 273 6301

TO: Senate Education Committee
FROM: Bill Willavize, Florence-Carlton Schools
RE: House Bill 460

This testimony is given in support of House Bill 460 which would provide for an alternative method for calculating "unusual ANB funds" for impacted Montana school districts. The present method used for such calculations is based on an "averaging process" of student growth/enrollment during the preceding three years. While this process does provide immediate relief for the first year of such growth, the averaging process adversely affects the dollars available for the ensuing years. It is altogether possible to have a sustained growth rate of 15 to 20 percent yet not qualify for "unusual ANB funds."

This problem becomes especially critical in the smaller districts with a yearly increasing student population but a very poor tax support base. Florence-Carlton is such a district so affected. Florence is located in the population boom center of Montana, the beautiful Bitterroot Valley. The growth rate from the fall of 1977 to the fall of 1978 was 18 percent. A mill raises just over \$2,100, suggesting the district does not have the tax base to accommodate such growth unaided.

The following information is actual data from the Florence-Carlton School District and is given to illustrate the exact nature of the problem.

FLORENCE-CARLTON HIGH SCHOOL

Year	Enrollment	Number Increase	Percent Increase
1975-1976	132		
1976-1977	143	11	8%
1977-1978	172	29	20%
1978-1979	204	32	19%
			47%
$47\% \div 3 \text{ years} = 16\% \text{ yearly}$ <u>anticipated normal growth</u>			

Given this actual data, the Florence-Carlton High School must exceed an anticipated growth of 236 students, or an increase of 32 students before it could qualify for "unusual ANB funds." Remembering that operation funds are based on the preceding year's ANB, this would mean that the Florence-Carlton District would need to provide funds for these 32 students. The District expends approximately \$1,800 per high school student. Thirty-two times \$1,800 equals a sum total to be paid by the District of \$57,600. Obviously, as poor as the District is, this would be impossible to raise through a voted levy. The Florence District is now confronted with just this problem. We have three alternatives under the present law. First, we can ask the voters to approve an additional \$57,600 in a special levy plus funds in the elementary to cover similar growth needs - Hey, we all know there are limits to what the local taxpayer can afford. A second choice is to try to justify to the Office of Public Instruction that growth will exceed the "normal anticipated" and receive "unusual ANB funds." Alas, a third alternative is to lower the quality of education provided by increasing class size and reducing program offerings such as chemistry, advanced math and industrial arts.

The proposed House Bill 460 being considered at this time would help to provide a fourth alternative to the Florence-Carlton Board of Trustees. It would make it more possible for the District to receive funds to meet the needs of the increasing student population. I fully realize that the passage of House Bill 460 may require additional State funds. I know the byword at home and in Helena is "strict financial responsibility." However, we are concerned with equalizing education opportunity throughout the State. It would seem that it would be more reasonable to equalize the expense at the state level rather than see children at the local level suffer because of the lack of adequate revenue.

I would be happy to answer questions which you may have.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

.....March 5,.....1970.....

MR.President.....

We, your committee on.....Education.....

having had under considerationHouse..... Bill No.323....

Ellerd (Thomas)

Respectfully report as follows: That.....House..... Bill No.323....

BE CONCURRED IN

DO PASS.

.....

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

.....March 6, 1979....

MR. President.....

We, your committee on.....Education.....

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

Lund (Fasbender)

Respectfully report as follows: That.....House..... Bill No. 435.....
third reading bill, be amended as follows:

1. Page 1, line 22.

Following: line 22

Insert: "Section 2. THERE IS A NEW MCA SECTION THAT READS:

Transition. School districts which would receive more foundation program monies prior to July 1, 1979, may average the amount of foundation program monies they would have received if this act had not been enacted prior to amendment with the amount they will receive under this act for the 1979-1980 school year only."

And, as so amended, BE CONCURRED IN

DUKEANS

PL

SENATE COMMITTEE EDUCATIONDate 3/5/79 Boise Bill No. 485 Time _____

NAME	YES	NO
Senator Ed Smith, V. Chairman	✓	
Senator Jesse O'Hara	✓	
Senator George McCallum	✓	
Senator Elmer Severson	✓	
Senator Mike Anderson	✓	
Senator Chet Blaylock		
Senator Larry Fasbender		✗
Senator Richard Smith		✗
Senator Bill Thomas	✓	
Senator Bob Brown, Chairman		✗

Gill Robyress
SecretaryBob Brown
Chairman

Motion: by Senator McCallum to amend
House Bill 485 by adding new Section
2.

(include enough information on motion--put with yellow copy of committee report.)

SENATE COMMITTEE EDUCATION

#5

Date 3/15/79 House Bill No. 485 Time _____

NAME	YES	NO
Senator Ed Smith, V. Chairman		Y
Senator Jesse O'Hara	X	
Senator George McCallum		Y
Senator Elmer Severson	Y	
Senator Mike Anderson	X	
Senator Chet Blaylock		
Senator Larry Fasbender	X	
Senator Richard Smith		Y
Senator Bill Thomas	Y	
Senator Bob Brown, Chairman	X	

Jill Robyans
SecretaryBob Brown
Chairman

Motion: by Senator Fasbender that House
bill 485 Be Concurred in as
Amended.

(include enough information on motion--put with yellow copy of committee report.)

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

.....March 5,..... 1970.....

MR. President.....

We, your committee on.....Education.....

having had under considerationHouse..... Bill No. 403.....

Vinger (E. Smith)

Respectfully report as follows: That.....House..... Bill No. 403..... third reading bill, be amended as follows:

1. Page 1, lines 19 through 20.

Following: "interpreted"

Strike: lines 19 through 20 in their entirety

Insert: ".."

2. Page 4, line 21.

Following: "by"

Insert: "the county superintendent or"

3. Page 5, line 6.

Following: "by"

Insert: "the county superintendent or"

And, as so amended, BE CONCURRED IN

RE-PASS:

1/6

SENATE COMMITTEE EDUCATIONDate 3/5/79 House Bill No. 480 Time _____

NAME	YES	NO
Senator Ed Smith, V. Chairman		X
Senator Jesse O'Hara	X	
Senator George McCallum	X	
Senator Elmer Severson	X	
Senator Mike Anderson	X	
Senator Chet Blaylock		abstain
Senator Larry Fasbender		X
Senator Richard Smith		present
Senator Bill Thomas		present
Senator Bob Brown, Chairman		X

Jill Robyane
SecretaryBob Brown
ChairmanMotion: by Senator McCallum to lay
House Bill 480 on the table.

(include enough information on motion--put with yellow copy of committee report.)

SENATE COMMITTEE EDUCATIONDate 3/5/79 House Bill No. 162 Time _____

NAME	YES	NO
Senator Ed Smith, V. Chairman		X
Senator Jesse O'Hara	X	
Senator George McCallum		X
Senator Elmer Severson	X	
Senator Mike Anderson	X	
Senator Chet Blaylock		absent
Senator Larry Fasbender	X	
Senator Richard Smith		X
Senator Bill Thomas	X	
Senator Bob Brown, Chairman		X

Sill Polkman

Secretary

Bob Brown

Chairman

Motion: by Senator O'Hara that
House Bill 162 Be Enclosed in

(include enough information on motion--put with yellow copy of committee report.)

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

.....March 5,..... 1973.....

MR.President.....

We, your committee on.....Education.....

having had under considerationHouse..... Bill No. 162.....

Budaily (O'Hara)

Respectfully report as follows: That.....House..... Bill No. 162.....

BE CONCURRED IN
DO PASS:

BL