

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
MARCH 16, 1981

The meeting was called to order by CHAIRMAN LUND at 8:00 a.m. in Room 104, State Capitol, with all members of the Committee present.

HEARINGS: HB 410.

REP. KERRY KEYSER, District 81, testified as sponsor of HB 410. He stated that the purpose of the bill was to appropriate general funds to the Office of Public Instruction for Special Olympics for a director, secretary and equipment. He stated that language could be added to the bill that if local funds are contributed for this purpose, a like amount would revert to the general fund.

MR. DON BYERSON, Great Falls, stated that the request would provide for the State games in May and that there are currently requests for summer camps. He stated that 2,000 volunteers are utilized in Montana and that 1981 is the year of the handicapped.

MR. JOHN SKEES, Executive Director, Special Olympics, Great Falls, stated that the program rotates between cities in Montana.

MR. HARLEY LEWIS, Athletic Director, University of Montana, stated that he worked with the committee the last two years preparing for the Special Olympics. He stated that the competition of the handicapped is more valuable to them than the World Olympics is to its competitors. He added that the personal growth is substantial through the Special Olympics.

Mr. Lewis stated that area games are expanding but continuity of the program is lost between annual games. He stated that local funding allows the Special Olympics to exist, but that control is needed at the State level.

MS. CAREY BURSELL, PE Teacher, Conrad, stated that she is a Special Olympics coach. She stated that 1200 athletes participate in the State Games and that about 4,000 handicapped persons participate at the local level. She stated that 49 states have a director for their program and that Montana is the only state that does not.

Ms. Bursell stated that \$20,000 was raised for the State Games, which covers all the costs. She stated that when the participants go to the National Games, funds must be raised in the communities for travel.

MR. JIM GRANT, Athletic Director, Great Falls Public Schools, stated that he feels the requested position would provide the

necessary continuity for the program.

MR. BOB JORDON, Recreational Therapist, Helena, and President of Developmentally Disabled Citizens of Helena, stated that most of the adult participants are out of Boulder and that the meet also provides a chance for these participants to have a reunion. He urged the Committee to support HB 410.

MS. DEBBIE CARLSON, Belgrade, former teacher and professional clown, requested that the Committee attend the Special Olympics in Great Falls in May. She stated her support of HB 410.

MR. HOWARD LYMAN, farmer and rancher, Cascade County, stated that he feels the handicapped can generate more love and have more to say than most people anticipate. He stated that he feels this investment provides the love and understanding the handicapped in Montana need.

MR. TOM GLEASON, Helena, stated that he had a Downs-Syndrome child. He stated that the muscular development of these children is most difficult and that he feels the Special Olympics is vital to the development of the handicapped. He urged the Committee to support HB 410.

REP. MOORE moved that HB 410 Do Pass. He withdrew his motion and stated that the matter would be taken up in executive session.

REP. STOBIE asked why a paid Director was needed and why a Volunteer would not work.

REP. QUILICI stated that the Director was needed to coordinate State efforts.

There were no opponents.

HB 665.

REP. MENAHAN, District 90, Anaconda, testified as sponsor of HB 665, stating that the bill would allow a school district that experiences a 6% or more decrease in school enrollment during the current school fiscal year to receive Foundation Program Funds.

MR. DAVE SEXTON, Montana Education Association, stated that the Association endorses the concept of HB 665, to compensate for reduction in school costs which are not commensurate with the decline in student enrollment. He stated that he feels that this bill will soften the impact of ANB, making a gradual average over the next 3-4 years.

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SEN. HAFHEY, District 45, Anaconda, stated that if the bill is not passed, local property taxes will increase.

REP. MENAHAN, in closing, stated that Anaconda will not have a tax base left if the counties are reduced to salvage level.

REP. BARDANOUVE requested a new fiscal note on the bill.

The hearing was closed and there were no opponents to the bill.

HB 767.

REP. DONALDSON, District 29, Helena, testified as sponsor of HB 767, which would appropriate \$25,000 to study State-operated laboratory facilities to determine lab capabilities in the State. He stated that during the PCB problem there was no coordination of labs in the State and that there is a need to define labs and their functions to promote good response. He added that there was a need for expertise in the study.

MR. DAVE LACKMAN, Lobbyist, State Lab Association, and formerly of the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences, stated that he supports HB 767. He stated that there are currently 10 State operated labs.

REP. HURWITZ stated that he supports the bill.

REP. MANUEL asked why the cost of the study was so high.

REP. DONALDSON stated that expertise was needed for the study and that the cost was estimated at \$25,000. He stated that the executive branch of State Government would be charged with making sure that the study works.

The hearing was closed on HB 767 and there were no opponents to the bill.

HJR 23.

CHAIRMAN LUND stated that the Resolution would change the State Fiscal Year to correspond with the Federal Fiscal Year.

REP. BARDANOUVE stated that this would cause a problem with school district funding.

REP. SHONTZ stated that he feels that as the Federal Government could not meet the July 1st deadline nor the changed October 1st deadline, that the date will probably be changed to January 1st.

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REP. COZZENS stated that he questioned lines 14-17 of the bill.

REP. LORY explained that the cities and counties are on a July 1st Fiscal Year.

MS. JUDY RIPPINGALE, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, stated that a number of Federal grants do not run current with the Federal Fiscal Year and that there would still be a varied number of Fiscal Year-end closings. She added that state-wide accounting has developed a procedure to make this year-end accounting easier.

CHAIRMAN LUND stated that HJR 38 would be tabled for the time being.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.



REP. ART LUND, CHAIRMAN

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VISITORS' REGISTER

HOUSE

Appropriations COMMITTEE

BILL

Date

3-1-81

SPONSOR

| NAME | RESIDENCE | REPRESENTING | SUP- PORT | OP- POSE |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Harold J. Evans | Gr. Falls | Self | ✓ | |
| Harold J. Evans | Abascula | Special Olympics | ✓ | |
| Robert Jorda | Helena | Association for Retarded Children | ✓ | |
| Don Byers | GREAT FALLS | SPECIAL Olympics | ✓ | |
| John J. J. J. | GREAT FALLS | " " | ✓ | |
| Caren Berzel | CONRAD | " " | ✓ | |
| Maul Lewis | Missoula | visitor | ✓ | |
| Deb Carlson | Belgrade | Special Olympics | ✓ | |
| GRACE FRANCE | BELGRADE | " | ✓ | |
| SPENCER SARTORIUS | HELENA | VISITOR | ✓ | |
| Jim Grant | Great Falls | Great Falls Pub. Schs. | ✓ | |
| John Toole | Helena | Rep. Veterans | | |
| TOM GLEASON | HELENA | CAS. CO. EL. OFF. | ✓ | |
| JOHN SMITH | HELENA | - SELF | ✓ | |
| Eddie Carlson | Helena | - SELF | ✓ | |
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IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR LONGER FORM.

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

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3-16

MR. **SPEAKER:**

We, your committee on **HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS**

having had under consideration **HOUSE** Bill No. **410**

**A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE MONEY
FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS COMPETITIVE ATHLETIC PROGRAMS."**

Respectfully report as follows: That **HOUSE** Bill No. **410**

DO NOT PASS

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