

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE SENATE

March 7, 1983

The meeting of the Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee was called to order by Chairman Bob Brown on March 7, 1983, at 1:04 p.m. in Room 402, State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: Senators Brown, Elliott, and Mazurek were excused. The remainder of the committee members were present.

Senator Smith, Vice Chairman, assumed the chair.

Debbie White, a member of the Flathead High School Concert Choir, spoke to the committee about her involvement in the music program. She said it had taught her, as well as her fellow music students, the importance of dedication, unity, and cooperation. The caring, sharing spirit of the choir and the importance of making music is an integral part of survival in a social system, she pointed out. She said music allows her to go beyond the practical and to express herself not just from her mind but from her heart.

HOUSE BILL 224: Representative Jensen, District 25, sponsor of the bill, said the bill allows a school district to go to the accrual system for accounting. The National Association of C.P.A.'s recommend this procedure as these are very large budgets - often the largest in a county.

PROPOSERS

Chip Erdmann, Montana School Boards Association, stated his organization strongly supports the bill as it will legally enable districts to encumber funds from one fiscal year to the next.

Gary Steuerwald, Assistant Superintendent, Office of Public Instruction, said at present, most districts don't conform to any generally accepted accounting process. The law currently doesn't allow districts to accrue. He said this would give an accurate picture of a district's financial picture and OPI supports it.

OPPONENTS

T. C. Mattocks, Superintendent of Schools, Cutbank, stated he was speaking as neither an opponent or proponent but did take exception to the charges of not conforming to any accepted accounting procedure. He stated they do adhere to many accepted accounting procedures but not to accrual. He pointed out the fiscal note attached to the bill.

There being no further proponents, the Chairman asked if there were questions.

Gary Steuerwald, Office of Public Instruction, noted this legislation should save districts money, especially in the area of ordering supplies, textbooks, etc. as the money can accrue and the liability against the current year can be paid the next.

There being no further discussion, the hearing was closed.

ACTION ON HOUSE BILL 224: Senator Blaylock moved House Bill 224 BE CONCURRED IN. The motion carried unanimously with Senators Brown, Elliott, and Mazurek absent.

HOUSE BILL 273: Representative Ray Peck, District 8, sponsor of the bill, said the bill allows the county election administrator (usually the Clerk and Recorder) to conduct the election for the school district. He said it is already done in most districts but if it were questioned it might be thrown out as it is not authorized by law. The School Business Managers and Clerks want to have it legalized on a permissive basis. The bill is also supported by the Clerks and Recorders and the League of Women Voters.

PROponents

Bill Romine, representing the Clerks and Recorders Association, stated his support of the bill. He asked the committee to check to see if there is a conflict between page 2, section 2, lines 6-10 and the information on page 1.

There were no further proponents and no opponents to the bill. The Chairman asked Lee Heiman, Committee Attorney, to check out the apparent conflict.

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HOUSE BILL 274: Representative Peck, District 8, sponsor of the bill, said the bill authorizes the county treasurers to provide a monthly financial report for school districts. He said rural schools don't need monthly reports and suggested an amendment on page 4 which would accomodate both monthly and quarterly reporting.

PROPOSERS

Charles Graveley, representing the County Treasurers, said large districts are already getting monthly reports. He suggested amending the bill to have the report include the following three areas: 1) total revenues received, 2) expenditures, 3) total cash balances.

Gary Steuerwald, Assistant Superintendent, Office of Public Instruction, stated support for the bill with amendments.

Wayne Buchanen, Montana School Boards Association, said he concurs with the bill and the Peck amendments.

There were no opponents to the bill.

The Chairman asked Lee Heiman to reveiw the suggested Graveley amendments for further consideration.

HOUSE BILL 422: Representative Ray Peck, District 8, sponsor of the bill, said currently school trustees adopt the budget the 4th Monday in June. The School Business Managers and Clerks want to have the date moved back to February 1 so that work can begin on a preliminary budget with the voted levy following.

PROPOSERS

Wayne Buchanen, Montana School Boards Association, said this is a good bill. He noted the notice provisions are better.

There were no opponents to the bill.

ACTION ON HOUSE BILL 422: Senator McCallum moved House Bill 422 BE CONCURRED IN. The motion carried unanimously with Senators Brown, Elliott, and Mazurek absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ACTION ON HOUSE BILL 273: Senator Blaylock moved the amendments as per the attached committee reports (exhibit #1). The motion carried unanimously with Senators Elliott, Mazurek, and Brown absent.

Senator Berg moved House Bill 273 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED. The motion carried unanimously with Senators Brown, Mazurek, and Elliott absent.

HOUSE BILL 653: Bob Stockton, OPI, said the bill clarifies tuition differences between situations where students attend school in a different district than the district of residence in or out of the county.

Senator Berg asked if the county superintendent of the county of residence is the approval agent.

Mr. Stockton said this is the way the law used to read.

Senator Mazurek voiced a concern with whether the approval must be unanimous among all approval agents or just the majority. He felt the bill was vague in this respect.

Mr. Stockton replied that "approval agents" means all agents must unanimously approve.

Senator Berg suggested amendments be drawn up clarifying the unanimous provision, inclusion of receiving districts approval and an effective date.

Senator Berg, Bob Stockton, and Lee Heiman will meet and draw up the amendments for further consideration.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.



Senator Bob Brown, Chairman

ROLL CALL

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE

48th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1983

Date 3/7/83

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
<u>Senator Bob Brown, Chairman</u>			X
<u>Senator Ed Smith, V. Chairman</u>	X		
<u>Senator Roger Elliott</u>			X
<u>Senator Delwyn Gage</u>	X		
<u>Senator George McCallum</u>	X		
<u>Senator Elmer Severson</u>	X		
<u>Senator Harry Berg</u>	X		
<u>Senator Chet Blaylock</u>	X		
<u>Senator Jack Haffey</u>	X		
<u>Senator Joseph Mazurek</u>			X

3/7/83

Education & Cultural Resources

VISITORS' REGISTER

[illegible]

(Please leave prepared statement with Secretary)

TO: Senate Committee on Education and Cultural Resources

FROM: Lee Heiman, Committee Counsel

DATE: March 7, 1983

RE: Summaries of House Bills 224, 274, 273, and 422

House Bill 224 (Jensen). Allows an exemption for lapses of school district appropriations at the end of the fiscal year if an obligation is recorded with the county treasurer in compliance with provisions established by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Bill would allow an accrual accounting system.

House Bill 273 (Peck). Provides a method for having a county election administrator conduct school elections in lieu of the trustees if requested by the trustees and agreed to by the election administrator.

House Bill 274 (Peck). Provides that the county treasurer will provide monthly, rather than quarterly, reports to the school trustees on paid, outstanding, and registered warrants, revenues, and the cash balance.

House Bill 422 (Peck). Provides that the preliminary budget may be adopted anytime between February 1 and the last Monday in June.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 8, 19 83

MR. **PRESIDENT**

We, your committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

having had under consideration **HOUSE** Bill No. **224**

Jensen (Gage)

Respectfully report as follows: That **HOUSE** Bill No. **224**

BE CONCURRED IN
HOUSE

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 8, 1983

MR. **PRESIDENT:**

We, your committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

having had under consideration **HOUSE** Bill No. **422**

Peck (McCallum)

Respectfully report as follows: That **HOUSE** Bill No. **422**

BE CONCURRED IN
XXXXXX

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STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 8, 1983

MR. PRESIDENT

We, your committee on EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

having had under consideration HOUSE Bill No. 273

Peck (Berg)

Respectfully report as follows: That HOUSE Bill No. 273

third reading copy, be amended as follows:

1. Page 2, line 8.

Following: "REQUEST"

Insert: "and"

2. Page 2, line 9.

Following: "administrator"

Insert: "agrees"

And, as so amended, BE CONCURRED IN

~~XXXXX~~

W.C.