

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
MONTANA STATE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 18, 1985

The meeting of the House Education and Cultural Resources Committee was called to order by Vice-Chairman Ralph Eudaily at 5:35 p.m. on February 18, 1985 in Room 312-3 of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: Roll call showed all members were present with the exceptions of Representatives Harrington and Hannah who were excused and came later.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. 242: Representative Mary Ellen Connelly, District #8, introduced this bill which guarantees a tax base and increases the maximum general fund without a vote. A guaranteed tax base would improve equalization by providing fiscal neutrality or wealth neutrality and it establishes a minimum tax base for poor districts. It provides additional financial resources only for districts that need help the most. She pointed out Section 4 of the bill to show how the tax base would be determined. It would be administered by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. She introduced Steve Colberg who worked on the language of the bill two years ago and he offered assistance in the area of question answering.

PROPOSERS: Phil Campbell with the Montana Education Association stood in support of the bill saying that any procedure that creates a greater equalization of funding for schools is a good proposition.

Terry Minow with the Montana Federation of Teachers said they support H.B. 242.

OPPOSERS: Dennis Burr with the Montana Taxpayer's Association opposed the bill. He mentioned a couple of things concerning the bill being 1) Page 5, line 12; there is a concern with the calculation of non-tax revenue to be used when arriving at a guaranteed tax base. It indicates that you would use 70% of non-tax revenue approved the previous year as an estimate for the current year. This may short the budget; and 2) Page 7, line 13, Subsection (5) addresses what happens if State appropriation isn't enough and calls for each district receiving a pro-rata portion of the payments. This concept goes directly against the present system and could end up with not enough money for the schools and no way under present law to make it up.

There being no further opponents, Vice-Chairman Eudaily called for questions from the committee. Rep. Eudaily asked Phil Campbell which program he would prefer to be funded, considering the fiscal notes on this and the Foundation Program. Mr. Campbell replied that he preferred both be funded.

Rep. Connelly closed the hearing by saying that this would help equalize funding across Montana and still give local control. Budgets are funded with unequalized voted revenues and this concept could work.

CONSIDERATION OF H.J.R. 26: Representative Mary Ellen Connelly introduced this resolution by saying it urged the board of trustees in each school district to appoint a non-voting student member to the board to represent the student body in the school district. Rep. Connelly introduced her legislative aide who supports the bill.

PROPOSERS: Chris Sell, student at Columbia Falls High School, spoke for the bill as the students are the least important in the districts right now. She said the people who are affected by the decisions should help make the decisions. She felt it was a constitutional right but it was not being given.

Phil Campbell with the Montana Education Association supported the resolution and thought it was a good idea for students to sit on the boards and bring to it a perspective that the boards may lack. There are some districts who currently practice this and find that the students are not radical but are helpful in the decision making process.

Jesse Long, Executive Secretary with the School Administrators of Montana has served on a board where there was a student representative who provided them with a great deal of information. There may be a problem in the elementary districts which would have to be worked out.

There being no further proponents or opponents, Vice-Chairman Eudaily called for questions from the committee. Rep. Peck asked Ms. Sell if there were a student representative on the Columbia Falls Board at present and whether they have asked for one. She replied that they do not have a student representative on the board and when a student attends the board meetings it is very frustrating because they are not recognized. Rep. Harbin asked Wayne Buchanan with the Montana School Board Association who was sitting in the audience why they did not testify on the bill and he responded that there are other methods for gaining recognition and if individual boards want to appoint a student member they will without a Joint Resolution.

Representative Connelly closed the hearing on H.J.R. 26.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. 765: Representative Jack Moore, District #37 in Great Falls, introduced this bill as its sponsor. He said that there are hard times in the state which will affect the university systems, vo-tech, community colleges, and departments in state government. This bill establishes a cap on local school district. It expects

other taxing entities to do the same as the State in regards to tightening up on costs. It sees that districts may not propose to adopt a total general fund budget which exceeds the previous year general fund budget for ANB by more than the annual percentage change of personal income for the five prior years. The personal income rate is certified by the Montana Department of Revenue. If districts exceed their annual total general budget, the Superintendent of Public Instruction may deduct that amount from the equalization funds that go to the districts.

PROPOSERS: Sandra Whitney with the Montana Taxpayers Association stepped forward and said the consumer price index has gone up 45% while the tax dollars levied have increased 54%. (See written testimony, Exhibit 1)

There being no additional proposers, the Chairman called for opponents to the bill.

OPPOSERS: Wayne Buchanan, representing the Montana School Board Association, said that philosophically they oppose any mandates from the State to the local level. It would be more workable if the board controlled the fortune of the district, but it is not really in their own hands. There are State Board requirements being raised and initiatives by the governor and committees to increase the effectiveness of education so the districts must do more. This proposal could raise the costs of voted levies by voting the maximum whether it was needed or not. If 5% is the maximum, it would be a certainty that districts would raise it by that and, in the long run, it may cost taxpayers more. It takes away from what the taxpayer knows and is doing. They have become much more sophisticated in the last five years and a taxpayer revolt is coming if the state does not equitably fund the State Foundation Program. The administrators are responding to this taxpayer sophistication and realize that the public is going to scrutinize the budgets and special levys.

Terry Minow with the Montana Federation of Teachers rose in opposition to the bill on the issue of lose of local control.

Phil Campbell representing the Montana Education Association, rose in opposition to H.B. 765. It would be a preference for the legislature to fund the Foundation Program and if that would happen this program might be accepted better. If the needs were being met at the district level, this legislation would not be necessary. They are in opposition to limiting the local district's authority to tax itself as it deems necessary.

Jesse Long with the School Administrators of Montana rose against the bill because there is not equalization across the state. Continuous mandates are impacting the budgets.

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

February 18, 1985

Page 4

The local district option has to be available so that every school board member and administrator can function within that framework. A cap would be more restrictive than the CPI, which he figures at 33%, and is not equitable.

Don Waldron, Superintendent of Schools at Hellgate Elementary in Missoula, spoke as the chief opposition being loss of local control as local elected officials know what is needed there. This is one of the few places where the public can vote on what to have and what not to have in the schools and this bill would limit offering the choices to the taxpayers.

There being no further opponents, Vice-Chairman Eudaily called for questions from the committee. Rep. Harbin asked Rep. Moore if he felt the local officials have not shown enough restraint in controlling the costs and Rep. Moore replied that it has not happened in the past. He pointed out that Great Falls voted in an additional 70 mill levy, and feels a tax revolt is at hand. There was discussion on a law similar in nature which only lasted two years. Rep. Moore could not say what the percentage would be for next year if the bill were in place. Rep. Eudaily pointed out that the bill may restrict building, altering, purchasing of grounds, or making repairs and referred to Page 2, Section 3.

Rep. Moore closed the hearing on this bill by saying that it does not take away local control as the district can maintain the current levels and can raise the voted levys by a certain percentage each year. He posed the question of where the money would come from to fund the Foundation Program at 7% and 7%. If the entire State Government and University Systems are going to bite the bullet, he feels the local taxing entities must also or the local taxpayers will bear the brunt and may revolt.

CONSIDERATION OF H.J.R. 27: Jerry Nisbet, District #35, opened this hearing saying that this resolution deals with a once in a lifetime event, being the return of Halley's Comet. It encourages dimming or extinguishing unessential outdoor lights at the time of the comet's passing. He said there were some amendments worked up for the resolution.

PROPONENTS: Janet Ellis spoke as a concerned citizen from Helena and instigated this resolution after reading of a national movement called "Dark Skies for Halley's Comet". Halley's Comet dates back to 239 B.C. The comet is a body of ice and dust which orbits the sun and takes from 74 to 79 years to make the orbit. It will pass close to the earth on November 22, 1985 and April 11, 1986. (See Exhibit 2)

Betsy Spethique representing Dr. Gerald Wheeler, Director of the Science and Math Resource Center at Montana State University for the past 10 years, said it is important to

bring this to the public's attention, especially the young. The Resource Center will be publicizing the event through the newsletter and television. She asked for a "do pass" and spoke as an individual citizen who would like to have the best possible viewing for the event.

Dan Stinson spoke as a concerned citizen who would like to see the comet as good as possible as he won't be able to wait for a second passing.

Jill Rohyans, Vice President of the Helena Astronomical Society spoke for the Society saying this would be the premier astronomical event happening for a very long time. Light pollution is a problem for viewing and they need all the help they can get in Montana. (See written testimony, Exhibit 3)

Ann Humphrey, a citizen from Bozeman rose in support of the resolution as this is a wonderful opportunity of which we should take full advantage.

Paxton Copp from Billings said he is an avid stargazer and he cannot use his telescope often because of all the lights in Billings. He was very excited about the Comet and would like to see as much of it as he could (in the dark).

Dan Nelson, with the Helena Astronomical Society, spoke for the group as they would like to generate funds for a public observatory during this event by selling tee shirts.

There being no opponents or questions to the resolution, Rep. Nisbet closed the hearing.

Chairman Harrington called for Executive Session.

ACTION ON H.J.R. 27: Rep. Williams called for a DO PASS for House Joint Resolution 27. Rep. Nisbet moved that the amendments be added. Both of these motions carried unanimously by voice vote.

ACTION ON H.J.R. 26: Rep. Thomas moved DO PASS. Rep. Peck said that he knew there were several students on boards, but did not know of a policy. Rep. Eudaily asked Jesse Long of the policy referred to in lines 20-23 and he answered that the State Board has a student representative which is outlined in their procedures. Representative Hannah made a substitute motion of DO NOT PASS because this would interfere with local control. The question was called for and the motion was given a tie vote and leaves the Committee WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION.

ACTION ON H.B. 497: Rep. Eudaily moved DO NOT PASS. Rep. Hammond seconded the motion. The committee looked at the proposed amendments. (For amendments, see Standing Committee Report) They discussed the geographic areas where there is a problem.

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Cascade County was said to have the most difficulty at the present time as students are attending other schools in the county because they live a short distance closer and the home school is losing equalization money. Rep. Brandewie motioned that the amendments be put on the bill, and this motion carried with Rep. Eudaily opposing. Rep. Peck substituted the motion on the floor with a DO PASS AS AMENDED motion which carried by voice vote and a show of hands indicated there were five opposing votes.

ACTION ON H.B. 556: Rep. Brandewie moved that H.B. 556 DO NOT PASS, and it was seconded by Rep. Eudaily. A voice vote and show of hands indicated the motion carried with seven opposing the motion.

ACTION ON H.B. 699: Rep. Eudaily moved that H.B. 699 DO PASS. Rep. Brandewie seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

ACTION ON H.B. 539: Rep. Hammond motioned that H.B. 539 DO PASS. Rep. Harbin moved the adoption of the amendments. A voice vote and show of hands indicated that H.B. 539 DO PASS AS AMENDED, with five dissenting votes. The amendments are as follows:

1. Page 1, line 18.  
Following: "~~public~~"  
Strike: "members at large"  
Insert: "representatives of the public"

ACTION ON H.B. 549: Rep. Thomas moved DO PASS. A voice vote indicated the motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ON H.B. 660: Rep. Mercer moved DO PASS to this bill. A roll call vote indicated 15 for and 3 against the motion and it carried.

ACTION ON H.B. 715: Rep. Harbin moved a DO PASS to H.B. 715. Rep. Hammond moved the amendments be adopted to the bill and this motioned carried. H.B. 715 goes from committee DO PASS AS AMENDED as the motion carried unanimously by voice vote. The amendments are as follows:

1. Page 2, line 21.  
Following: "event"  
Insert: ", unless the person is otherwise employed by a school district"

ACTION ON H.B. 503: Rep. Thomas motioned that H.B. 503 DO NOT PASS. A roll call vote indicated 10 for, 8 against. The motion carries.

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

February 18, 1985

Page 7

RECONSIDERATION OF H.B. 551: Rep. Peck moved that H.B. 551 be taken from the table. Rep. Brandewie seconded this motion and it carried. H.B. 551 will be acted upon in the next executive session.

There being no further business, the committee adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

  
DAN HARRINGTON, Chairman

crf

DAILY ROLL CALL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

49th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1985

Date 2-20-85

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NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Dan Harrington	<i>late</i>		
Ralph Eudaily	✓		
Ray Brandewie	✓		
William Glaser	✓		
Joe Hammond	✓		
Thom Hannah			
Raymond Harbin	✓		
Roland Kennerly	✓		
Les Kitselman	✓		
John Mercer	✓		
John Montayne	✓		
Richard Nelson	✓		
Jerry Nisbet	✓		
Ray Peck	✓		
Jack Sands	✓		
Ted Schye	✓		
Fred Thomas	✓		
Mel Williams	✓		



# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

FEBRUARY 12 ..... 19 95

MR. SPEAKER .....

We, your committee on EDUCATION & CULTURAL RESOURCES .....

having had under consideration HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION ..... Bill No. 25 .....

FIRST reading copy ( WHITE )  
color

**URGING SCHOOL BOARDS TO APPOINT NONVOTING STUDENT MEMBER**

Respectfully report as follows: That HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION ..... Bill No. 26 .....

WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

XXXXXX  
DO-PASS

ROLL CALL VOTE

HOUSE COMMITTEE EDUCATION

DATE 2-18-85 HJR 26 Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

NAME	YES	NO
<del>Dan Harrington</del>		
Ralph Eudaily	✓	
Ray Brandewie	✓	
William Glaser	✓	
Joe Hammond	✓	
Tom Hannah	✓	
Raymond Harbin	✓	
Roland Kennerly		✓
Les Kitselman	✓	
John Mercer	✓	
John Montayne		✓
Richard Nelson		✓
Jerry Nisbet		✓
Ray Peck		✓
Jack Sands	✓	
Ted Schye		✓
Fred Thomas		✓
Mel Williams		✓
Dan Harrington		✓

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Motion: DO NOT PASS TIE VOTE NO RECOMMENDATION

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

PAGE 1 OF 2

FEBRUARY 19

19 85

MR. SPEAKER

We, your committee on EDUCATION & CULTURAL RESOURCES

having had under consideration HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION Bill No. 27

FIRST reading copy ( WHITE )  
color

**HONORING 1986 PASSAGE OF HALLEY'S COMET URGING LIGHTS DIPPED**

Respectfully report as follows: That HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION Bill No. 27

## BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Title, line 7.  
Following: "IN"  
Insert: "NOVEMBER OF 1985 AND IN"
2. Page 2, line 1.  
Strike: "March and April 1986,"  
Insert: "November 1985 and"
3. Page 2, line 2.  
Following: "cwwilght"  
Insert: "in March and April 1986"

DOXPASS

PAGE 2 OF 2

4. Page 2, line 6.  
Following: "WHEREAS, the"  
Insert: "late evening and"
5. Page 2, line 11.  
Following: "months of"  
Insert: "November 1985 and"
6. Page 2, line 16.  
Strike: "on the mornings in"
7. Page 2, line 17.  
Strike: "1986 that"  
Insert: "when"

AND, AS AMENDED

DO PASS

# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

PAGE 1 OF 2

FEBRUARY 18

19 35

MR. SPEAKER

We, your committee on EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

having had under consideration HOUSE Bill No. 497

FIRST reading copy ( WHITE )  
color

**PROVIDE DISCRETION TO APPROVAL AGENTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL TUITION  
APPLICATIONS**

Respectfully report as follows: That HOUSE Bill No. 497

**BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

1. Title, line 11.  
Following: "TRANSPORTATION"  
Insert: ", UNLESS CERTAIN CONDITIONS EXIST"  
  
Following: "MCA"  
Insert: "; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE  
DATE"
2. Page 2, line 10.  
Following: "(2)"  
Insert: "(a)"

~~DO PASS~~

H.B. 497

PAGE 2 OF 2

3. Page 2, line 15.  
Following: "application"  
Insert: "(b)"
4. Page 2, line 20.  
Following: "transportation" Strike: "."  
Insert: ", unless any of the following conditions exist:  
(i) the child resides less than 3 miles from the school the child wishes to attend or more than 20 miles from any high school of his resident district. For the purposes of this subsection (2) (b) (i), the mileage is measured by traveling the most direct route on a maintained state or county road;  
  
(ii) the child has been declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be an abused, neglected, or dependent child as defined in 41-3-102, or a delinquent youth as defined in 41-5-103, and has been ordered to be placed in a licensed care institution which is approved by the department of social and rehabilitation services, and as a result of the order the child is required to attend high school outside of the district of his residence; or  
  
(iii) the child has enrolled in a high school outside his resident district and has received an approved tuition agreement on or before [the effective date of this act]. For the purposes of this subsection (2) (b) (iii), the child has the right to continue his high school education in the receiving high school outside his resident district on an approved tuition agreement, subject to the provisions of this section."
5. Page 3, line 16.  
Following: line 17  
Insert: "NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date. ~~This act is effective~~ on passage and approval."

AND, AS AMENDED

DO PASS

# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

FEBRUARY 13

19 65

MR. SPEAKER

We, your committee on EDUCATION & CULTURAL RESOURCES

having had under consideration HOUSE Bill No. 556

FIRST reading copy ( WHITE )  
color

**CREATE A BOARD OF TEACHING AND TEACHER ETHICS PANEL**

Respectfully report as follows: That HOUSE Bill No. 556

DO NOT PASS

~~DO PASS~~

# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

FEBRUARY 12 ..... 19 35 .....

MR. .... **SPEAKER** .....

We, your committee on ..... **EDUCATION & CULTURAL RESOURCES** .....

having had under consideration ..... **HOUSE** ..... Bill No. .... **699** .....

FIRST reading copy ( WHITE )  
color

**REVISE APPEAL PROCESS FOR PROTEST TO TRANSFER OF TERRITORY FROM  
ELEM. DIST.**

Respectfully report as follows: That ..... **HOUSE** ..... Bill No. .... **699** .....

DO PASS



# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

.....FEBRUARY 12..... 19 85.....

MR. SPEAKER.....

We, your committee on.....EDUCATION & CULTURAL RESOURCES.....

having had under consideration .....HOUSE..... Bill No. 539.....

FIRST reading copy ( WHITE )  
color

## ADDING MEMBER TO TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BOARD

Respectfully report as follows: That.....HOUSE..... Bill No. 539.....

### BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Page 1, line 13.  
Following: "public"  
Strike: "members at large"  
Insert: "representatives of the public"

AND, AS AMENDED

DO PASS

# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

.....FEBRUARY 18..... 19...35.....

MR. SPEAKER.....

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

having had under consideration.....HOUSE..... Bill No. 549.....

FIRST reading copy ( WHITE )  
color

**TO GENERALLY CLARIFY CERTAIN SCHOOL FINANCE LAWS**

Respectfully report as follows: That.....HOUSE..... Bill No. 549.....

DO PASS

# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

FEBRUARY 13 ..... 19 85.....

MR. SPEAKER.....

We, your committee on EDUCATION & CULTURAL RESOURCES.....

having had under consideration HOUSE..... Bill No. 660.....

FIRST reading copy ( WHITE )  
color

**APPROPRIATION TO UPGRADE SALARY SCHEDULE FOR DEAF AND BLIND SCHOOL**

Respectfully report as follows: That HOUSE..... Bill No. 660.....

DO PASS

ROLL CALL VOTE

HOUSE COMMITTEE EDUCATION

DATE 2.18.85 HOUSE Bill No. 660 Time \_\_\_\_\_

NAME	YES	NO
<del>Dan Harrington</del>		
Ralph Eudaily		✓
Ray Brandewie	✓	
William Glaser	✓	
Joe Hammond	✓	
Tom Hannah	✓	
Raymond Harbin	✓	
Roland Kennerly	✓	
Les Kitselman	✓	
John Mercer	✓	
John Montayne	✓	
Richard Nelson	✓	
Jerry Nisbet	✓	
Ray Peck		✓
Jack Sands		✓
Ted Schye	✓	
Fred Thomas	✓	
Mel Williams	✓	
DAN HARRINGTON	✓	

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Motion: DO PASS 15 FOR 3 AGAINST

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

FEBRUARY 13..... 19 85..

MR. SPEAKER.....

We, your committee on EDUCATION & CULTURAL RESOURCES.....

having had under consideration HOUSE..... Bill No. 715.....

FIRST reading copy ( WHITE )  
color

**EXEMPT FROM WORKERS COMP. COVERAGE WORK AS OFFICIAL AT SCHOOL  
SPORT EVENT**

Respectfully report as follows: That..... HOUSE..... Bill No. 715.....

**BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

1. Page 2, line 21.  
Following: "event"  
Insert: ", unless the person is otherwise  
employed by a school district"

**AND, AS AMENDED**

**DQ PASS.**

# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

FEBRUARY 19..... 19 25...

MR. SPEAKER.....

We, your committee on EDUCATION & CULTURAL RESOURCES.....

having had under consideration ..... HOUSE..... Bill No. 523.....

FIRST reading copy ( WHITE )  
color

**REGULATE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING BETWEEN SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND TEACHERS**

Respectfully report as follows: That..... HOUSE..... Bill No. 503.....

DO NOT PASS

DO PASS

ROLL CALL VOTE

HOUSE COMMITTEE EDUCATION

DATE 2.18.85 HOUSE Bill No. 503 Time \_\_\_\_\_

NAME	YES	NO
<del>Dan Harrington</del>		
Ralph Eudaily	✓	
Ray Brandewie	✓	
William Glaser	✓	
Joe Hammond		
Tom Hannah	✓	✓
Raymond Harbin		✓
Roland Kennerly		✓
Les Kitselman	✓	
John Mercer	✓	
John Montayne		✓
Richard Nelson		✓
Jerry Nisbet		✓
Ray Peck	✓	
Jack Sands	✓	
Ted Schye		✓
Fred Thomas	✓	
Mel Williams		✓
<b>DAN HARRINGTON</b>	✓	

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Motion: DO NOT PASS

10 FOR 8 AGAINST

EXHIBIT 1

H. B. 765

2-18-85

WILLIAM G. STERNHAGEN  
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
S. KEITH ANDERSON  
PRESIDENT

# MONTANA TAXPAYERS Association



P O BOX 4909

1706 NINTH AVENUE

HELENA, MONTANA 59604

406 442-21

February 18, 1985

To: House Education & Culture Committee  
Re: HB 765 - A bill to place a limitation on the general fund budget of any school district.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

For the record, my name is Sandra Whitney, representing the Montana Taxpayers Association.

We wish to go on record as supporting HB 765.

In the last five years the consumer price index has gone up 45%. The taxable valuation of this state has increased 43.7%. Tax dollars levied for cities and counties have increased 44.6%.

In contrast, taxes dollars levied for schools have increased 54% in the same 5 years. The total dollars for the general fund have risen 54.2%, in line with total dollars levied, and 20% above the inflation rate.

The ANB in that time period has decreased 7.38%. The effective cost per ANB is therefore up 68.63%, a rise of 50% more than the inflation rate.

We submit, based on the large increases in school spending where there is no limit, as compared to spending by cities and counties which must conform to statutory limits, that there is a definite need for a general limitation. If the school district feels there is a need for more spending beyond the limitation stated in HB 765, it would still have the opportunity to go to the voters for the extra authority.

This bill seems to treat school districts and voters fairly, it appears to allow sufficient flexibility in budgeting, and it would establish a reasonable limit to help control spiraling costs and taxes. For these reasons, MonTax supports HB 765 and asks your "Do Pass" vote.

Thank you.



- Bozeman - 45°
- Billings - 45°
- Butte - 45°
- Great Falls - 47°
- Havre - 48°
- Helena - 46°
- Kalispell - 48°
- Miles City - 46°
- Missoula - 46°

EXHIBIT 2

H.J.R. 27

2-18-85

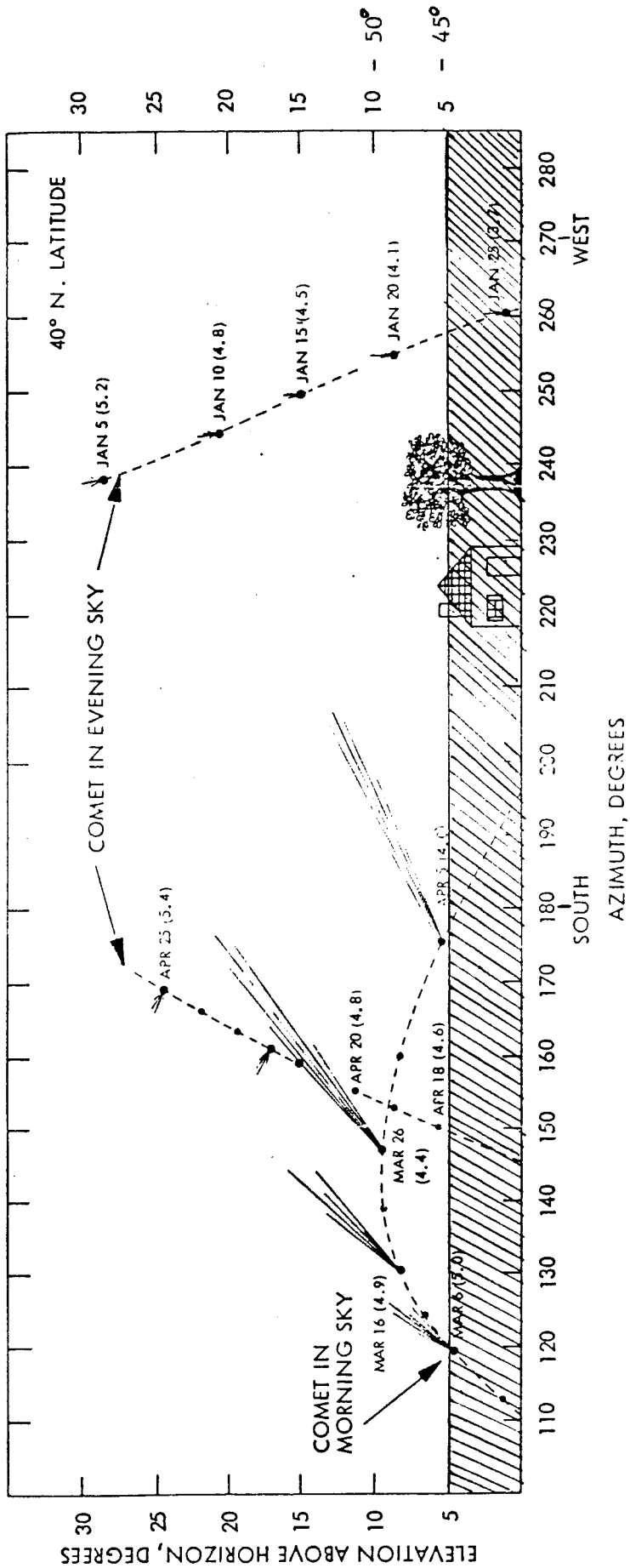


Fig. 9. Comet Halley Observing Conditions in 1986 for Observers Located at 40° North Latitude. Comet Positions are Given for Beginning of Morning Astronomical Twilight or End of Evening Astronomical Twilight. Approximate Total Visual Magnitudes are Given in Parentheses Following Dates. Viewing with Binoculars and Ideal Observing Conditions are Assumed.

Striped line indicates the horizon in Montana (starting at 45°). Adjust map for various cities by estimating the horizon as the Latitude of that city.

Halley's Comet will be higher in the sky in November. It will not have much of a tail at this time but it will be higher in the sky in the Northern Hemisphere.

MISTER CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

For the record, my name is Jill Rohyans, Vice President of the Helena Astronomical Society. Even though viewing of Halley's Comet will be marginal, at best, in Montana, we certainly wholeheartedly support the bill.

Actually, the most important part of the bill is the part that causes most people to grin when they read the bill. Light pollution is the bane of all astronomers, amateur and professional. Palomar Observatory is experiencing serious light pollution problems and the work being done there is in jeopardy. Elaborate plans are being formulated with cities in the area for dimming of lights in order to preserve some quality night viewing.

Halley's Comet will be so dim, with only the tail portion visible in Montana, that we "need all the help we can get".

If you want to see a graphic demonstration, please feel free to attend a public viewing by the Helena Astronomical Society Saturday night, February 23, 7:30 p.m. at Rossiter School in the Helena Valley. Members of the Society will be there with a variety of telescopes as well as some beautiful planets, nebulae, and galaxies for your viewing pleasure.

One note - look up and see if you can see the stars before you leave home, (no, telescopes can't see through clouds), and dress very very warmly.

VISITOR'S REGISTER

HOUSE \_\_\_\_\_ EDUCATION \_\_\_\_\_ COMMITTEE \_\_\_\_\_

BILL HJR27 - HONORING PASSAGE OF HALLEY'S COMET DATE 2-18-85

SPONSOR GERALD NISBET

NAME	RESIDENCE	REPRESENTING	SUP- PORT	OP- POSE
Betty S. Higney	Helena	Self	X	
<del>John ...</del>	Helena	Self	X	
Camy B. Lund	Helena	Self	X	
Jانيت Ellis	Helena	Self	X	
Jill Richards	Helena	Helena Astron Society	X	
Jane Wilson	Helena	Helena Astron Soc.	X	
Ann Hutchinson	Bozeman	Self	X	
Paxton Copp	Billings	myself	X	

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR LONGER FORM.  
WHEN TESTIFYING PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

VISITOR'S REGISTER

HOUSE \_\_\_\_\_ EDUCATION \_\_\_\_\_ COMMITTEE \_\_\_\_\_

BILL HJR26 - URGING SCHOOL BOARD TO APPOINT DATE 2-18-85  
 NON VOTING MEMBER  
 SPONSOR MARY E CONNELLY

NAME	RESIDENCE	REPRESENTING	SUP- PORT	OP POS
<i>John W. Long</i>	<i>Halme</i>	<i>S.A.M.</i>	✓	
<i>Phil Connelly</i>		<i>MEA</i>	✓	

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR LONGER FORM.  
 WHEN TESTIFYING PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

VISITOR'S REGISTER

HOUSE \_\_\_\_\_ EDUCATION \_\_\_\_\_ COMMITTEE \_\_\_\_\_

BILL 242 - CREATE GUARANTEED TAX BASE

DATE 2-18-85

SPONSOR MARY E. CONNELLY

NAME	RESIDENCE	REPRESENTING	SUP-PORT	OP-POSE
<del>Denise Burr</del>	Quincy, IL	MONTANA		X
<del>_____</del>				

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR LONGER FORM.

WHEN TESTIFYING PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

VISITOR'S REGISTER

HOUSE \_\_\_\_\_ EDUCATION \_\_\_\_\_ COMMITTEE \_\_\_\_\_

BILL #765 - LIMITATION ON GENERAL FUND BUDGET DATE 2-18-85

SPONSOR Jack Moore

NAME	RESIDENCE	REPRESENTING	SUP- PORT	OP POS
<i>J. Whitney</i>	<i>Helena</i>	<i>Man Tol</i>	<i>✓</i>	
<i>James H. Linn</i>	<i>Helena</i>	<i>S.A.M.</i>		<i>✓</i>
<i>Phil Campbell</i>		<i>MEA</i>		<i>✓</i>
<i>Don Waldron</i>	<i>Missoula</i>	<i>H. Nat. Educ.</i>		<i>✓</i>

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