

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

March 15, 1985

The 21st meeting of the Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee was called to order by the Vice Chairman, Senator Dick Pinsoneault, at 1:03 p.m., in Room 402, Capitol Building.

ROLL CALL: All committee members were present except Senator Blaylock, who was excused.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 18: REPRESENTATIVE LORY, sponsor of the bill, said the bill provides legislative consent for four construction projects at the University of Montana for which no appropriation is required. The projects include construction of recreation fields, office space for the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, development of additional parking areas, and remodeling of the Chemistry/Pharmacy Building to provide additional classrooms.

PROPOSERS:

DR. GLEN WILLIAMS, Administrative Vice President for Finance, University of Montana, urged support for the bill.

There were no further proponents and no opponents to the bill.

DISCUSSION:

SENATOR REGAN said there was concern expressed by students at the University that student building fees were being used to help finance these projects. She suggested language should be inserted in the bill which would prohibit use of these fees for projects less than \$200,000.

DR. WILLIAMS replied the projects did not need to be reviewed as none were using student building fees. He said the Mansfield Center office space is being privately financed, and the recreation fields and parking lots did not need to be approved as they were under the limit. He said bonds were approved for classroom remodeling, the bonds being financed in part by student building funds. However, all four projects have been before the Board of Regents and the Building Fee Committee according to Dr. Williams.

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SENATOR REGAN said the University of Montana audit report said fees are being handled in an unlawful manner.

SENATOR MAZUREK asked for some clarification.

MONTE KOCH, ASUM, replied that SJR 14 of the 1983 session excluded the use of student building fees for construction of the new stadium. He said the students want the same language in this bill.

SENATOR REGAN felt the language should be in this bill to protect the student fees for the parking and recreational field projects.

MONTE KOCH said the fee usage is unclear.

DR. WILLIAMS said the projects are being funded by the bond sale proceeds.

MR. KOCH said the money used to refinance the bonds came from the student building fee revenues.

REPRESENTATIVE LORY closed by saying he understood the students not wanting their fees used for the stadium construction last session but felt this was not cogent in relationship to this bill. He urged the committee to pass the bill.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL 635: REPRESENTATIVE DARKO, District 2, sponsor, said the bill allows the school district to negotiate with the bus contractor for reimbursement which enables him to leave the school bus at the end of the route and drive his own car home. She said it would result in an approximate \$660,000 savings across the state. She felt it was designed to meet a specific need which many districts have and is a good money saving measure.

PROPONENTS:

CHIP ERDMAN, Montana School Boards Association, said the bill addresses a problem originally put forth by the Libby school district but one that is experienced all across the state. He said many buses run empty for half their route every day. He noted the \$660,000 figure was based on 75% reimbursement where in fact it may run closer to 50%.

RICHARD TRERISE, County Superintendents of Schools, supported the bill. He noted an example of the situation in Lewis and Clark County where the pickup begins at the top of Rogers Pass close

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to Wolf Creek. With two round trips a day, one whole trip is run with an empty bus.

BOB STOCKTON, Office of Public Instruction, said most school districts are charging full reimbursement for personal transportation. He said this bill would keep them honest.

There being no further proponents and no opponents, Representative Darko closed.

ACTION ON HOUSE BILL 635:

SENATOR McCALLUM moved HB 635 BE CONCURRED IN. The motion CARRIED unanimously with Senators Blaylock and Regan absent.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL 685: REPRESENTATIVE HAMMOND, District 52, sponsor, said the bill allows districts to set their budgets at actual cost.

PROPONENTS:

RICHARD TRERISE, Montana Association of County Superintendents, said Representative Hammond introduced the bill at their request. The explanation of the bill is contained in Exhibit #1.

BOB STOCKTON, Office of Public Instruction, presented his testimony in support of the bill (Exhibit #2).

CHIP ERDMAN, MSBA, urged support of the bill.

There being no further proponents and no opponents to the bill, Representative Hammond closed.

ACTION ON HOUSE BILL 685:

SENATOR HAFFY moved HB 685 BE CONCURRED IN. The motion CARRIED unanimously with Senator Blaylock absent.

PRESENTATION:

A contingent of gifted and talented students from Arlee and their teacher, Cassie Parsons, Principal, Harold Brown, and Superintendent, Dr. Marvin Trask, appeared before the committee to explain their program. The class has established a weather

station and is currently forecasting for their whole valley and providing services to local farmers. They also explained their personal projects which included areas such as chemistry, computers, robots, chinese writing and language.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL 534:

The committee considered Senator Pinsonneault's suggestion to amend the bill to reflect consent of the local election administrator.

SENATOR MAZUREK was concerned that the old school board would extend the election date and make decisions that would bind the new board.

SENATOR SMITH feared that greater problems are being created than are being solved.

There was a concern expressed that the 30 day extension would not be very beneficial if it is based on the end of the legislative session. Levy elections are set 20 days prior to the election date which gives hardly any time for session to end and determination of levies to be made.

The committee agreed to take no further action at this time.

ACTION ON HOUSE BILL 608:

SENATOR MAZUREK involved HB 608 BE CONCURRED IN. The motion CARRIED unanimously with Senators Regan and Blaylock absent.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned.


  
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Senator Chet Blaylock, Chairman





EXHIBIT 41  
HB. 685  
MARCH 8,  
1985  
SENATE ED.  
10/11/85.

INFORMATION RE HOUSE BILL 685

from Richard Trerise

POINTS:

1. Allows districts the option to receive and then re-appropriate anticipated monies rather than anticipate an unknown amount.
2. By anticipating mortar vehicle reimbursement you reduce the levy. The lower the levy, the less you receive as the money is split according to mill levies.

SUMMARY:

Instead of having to anticipate unknown amounts, this bill allows districts to receive the money first, and then re-appropriate an exact amount the following year.

HB 685  
11.13.85  
MAY 15, 1985  
SEN. E. P. \*  
C. W. ...



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

STATE CAPITOL  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620  
(406) 444-3095

Ed Argenbright  
Superintendent

March 18, 1985

TO: Senate Education Committee  
FROM: R.W. Stockton *[Signature]*  
RE: H.B. 685

Certain miscellaneous revenues are paid into county and school district funds. Formally school districts and counties had the option of anticipating these funds or carrying them over one year and using them as cash reappropriated. Thus, the exact figures were known and were used to reduce county and district mill levies.

Since the advent of the motor vehicle fees it was mandatory that these revenues be anticipated. Some of the sources can be anticipated with a degree of accuracy while others vary wildly.

Another factor is that the motor vehicle fees are paid to counties and districts on the basis of the mill levies. Thus, you estimate an amount based upon the current mill levy and that amount is used to reduce the levy. Consequently, you receive a smaller amount than that which was anticipated. The only way to estimate these figures with accuracy would be by solving simultaneous quadratic equations.

This bill would not be a cost to the taxpayers, but would allow the trustees of a school district to return to the original options of methods.

RWS:lab



# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 15, 19 85

MR. PRESIDENT

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

having had under consideration **HOUSE BILL** No. **635**

third reading copy ( blue )  
color

(Senator Hammond will carry the bill.)

**ALLOW SCHOOL DISTRICTS REIMBURSEMENT FOR VEHICLE DRIVEN TO BUS LOCATION**

Respectfully report as follows: That **HOUSE BILL** No. **635**

BE CONCURRED IN

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**Senator Chet Blaylock,** Chairman.

# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 15, 19 85

MR. PRESIDENT

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

having had under consideration **HOUSE BILL** No. **685**

**third** reading copy ( **blue** )  
color

**(Senator Haffey will carry the bill.)**

**ALLOW USE OF REAPPROPRIATED FUND IN COMPUTING SCHOOL LEVY NEEDS**

Respectfully report as follows: That **HOUSE BILL** No. **685**

**BE CONCURRED IN**

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**Senator Chet Blaylock,** Chairman.

# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 15, 19 85

MR. PRESIDENT

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

having had under consideration **HOUSE BILL** No. **608**

**third** reading copy ( **blue** )

color

(Senator Blaylock will carry the bill.)

**MANDATORY APPROVAL FOR TUITION WHEN STUDENT TRANSFERRED ON COURT ORDER**

Respectfully report as follows: That **HOUSE BILL** No. **608**

**BE CONCURRED IN**

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**Senator Chet Blaylock,**

Chairman.