MINUTES OF THE MEETING EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE 50TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The fourteenth meeting of the Education and Cultural Resources Committee was called to order by Chairman Jack Sands, on February 13, 1987, at 12:30 p.m. in Room 312-D of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: All members were present with the exception of Reps. Keenan, Mercer and Thomas who joined the meeting later.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ACTION ON HOUSE BILL NO. 118:

ANDREA MERRILL, legislative council staff member, handed out amendments to HB # 118. See EXHIBIT # 1. REP. SWYSGOOD moved the amendments. Ms. Merrill explained the amendments were suggested by Sandra Whitney of the Montana Taxpayers Association. Ms. Whitney had suggested that the bill be changed to a limited cash reserve, and that it would allow the school districts to collect for three halves of a year at once so they could get past the cash flow problems they experience. REP. EUDAILY moved DO PASS on HB # 118.

REP. NELSON noted there was a limited reserve in the bill but the 50% figure had been crossed out, so what was the limit? Ms. Merrill explained that a limited cash reserve for the purpose of paying the warrants and bond obligations must be paid from July 1 through November 20 of the fiscal year following the one that they are budgeting for, is the way the bill reads. That means that whatever the school districts payments are going to be, that will be the limit. She stated this bill will allow schools to plan for the ensuing year and to also plan for from July 1 to November 30 of the year following because that is the time when they don't get any taxes in but the bond obligations still have to be paid.

A discussion was held on the date that the taxes have to be paid. The question was called on the amendments, the motion CARRIED. CHAIRMAN SANDS called for further discussion on the bill.

In response to a question, Ms. Merrill explained that this was a budgeting bill which would allow school districts to budget a half a year ahead. REP. LORY noted that one year taxpayers will have to put in three halves. The question was called on the DO PASS AS AMENDED motion on HB # 118, the motion CARRIED with two opposing votes. Roll call # 1.

Education and Cultural Resources Committee February 13, 1987 Page Two

ACTION ON HOUSE BILL NO. 279:

REP. EUDAILY moved that HB # 279 be tabled. CHAIRMAN SANDS noted it was a nondebatable motion; the motion CARRIED unanimously.

ACTION ON HOUSE BILL NO 295:

REP. LORY moved that HB # 295 be tabled. The question was called, the motion CARRIED with REP. GLASER voting no.

ACTION ON HOUSE BILL NO. 303:

REP. HARRINGTON moved <u>DO PASS</u> on HB # 303. CHAIRMAN SANDS called for discussion. REP. WILLIAMS stated he supported the bill because it creates equity in giving young kids an equal start in the educational program. The question was called, the motion CARRIED with 9 favorable and 6 opposing votes. Roll call # 2.

ACTION ON HOUSE BILL NO. 365:

REP. EUDAILY moved <u>DO PASS</u> on HB # 365. CHAIRMAN SANDS called for discussion. The question was called, the motion CARRIED unanimously. REP. EUDAILY moved the statement of intent. The question was called, the motion CARRIED. EXHIBIT # 2.

CHAIRMAN SANDS closed the executive session.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 529:

REP. TOM HANNAH, House District No. 86, sponsor of the bill, stated he introduced HB # 529 at the request of the school boards. He said the current law allows 11th and 12th grade students to enroll in school on a part time basis and the school district will receive ANB on a prorated basis. He explained the bill would allow 9th and 10th graders to do the same.

PROPONENTS:

BOB ANDERSON, representing the School Boards Association, rose in support of the bill.

OPPONENTS:

JESS LONG, representing the School Administrators of Montana. Mr. Long stated that 11th and 12th graders were

Education and Cultural Resources Committee February 13, 1987 Page Three

excepted for two reasons, 1) to provide for early graduation of students. 2) to allow for part time college participation. He expressed concern that this bill would open a door where the accredited schools such as Billings Central and Butte Central and a number of other accredited private schools would have the potential of a student enrolling part time in the high school and taking the expensive classes.

OPPONENTS: None.

CHAIRMAN SANDS called upon Ray Shackleford from OPI to offer some technical information.

RAY SHACKLEFORD, OPI, said he wanted to explain to the committee where he had derived the figures in the fiscal note. See EXHIBIT # 2. He said there are 8,000 students in Montana who are not in public schools and 1,800 of them are in the 9th through 12th grade, so he estimated that if there was an allowance like the bill proposes that there was a potential of 200 -250 students that might attend the public schools part time and receive ANB.

QUESTIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE:

A discussion was held on the proposed \$1 million dollar cost that was listed on the fiscal note; the fact that there are only 15 11th and 12th grade students out of 22,000 who are presently utilizing the prorated ANB; and whether students taking night classes are eligible for ANB.

REP. HANNAH closed by stating the bill simply asks to move the age line down so that it matches up at the level where the mandatory education level stops. He said he thought it was a simple bill and there isn't near the problems with it that have been mentioned.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 601:

REP. TOM HANNAH, House District No. 86, sponsor of the bill, stated that HB # 60l is a similar idea to HB # 529, and that it deals with the same area of the statute. He mentioned that he was very sympathetic to the home school movement. He said the bill would allow the home school or private school student to attend a public school parttime and the school district would receive a prorated ANB for that student.

Education and Cultural Resources Committee February 13, 1987 Page Four

PROPONENTS: None.

OPPONENTS:

ERIC FEAVER, President, Montana Education Association, rose in opposition to the bill. He stated he thought there is a real problem with home schools trying to participate on a pick and chose basis.

QUESTIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE:

REP. GLASER noted he had a granddaughter who lives 50 miles from school and her mother who is a certified teacher in the State of Montana is considering putting her in a home school. He asked if she would be able to avail herself to classes in Hardin one day a week if this bill did not pass. REP. HANNAH explained that she could avail herself but the school would not be given any ANB money for her not attending the school regularly.

REP. HANNAH closed by remarking that he and Mr. Feaver agreed more than the committee realized. First, that the state can't continue in the traditional way that it is used to. Secondly, that where there is a clear and obvious separation of church and state problems, the state can't be funding parochial schools with state money. But it is an irrational fear that the parochial schools would send all their kids across the street and not expect that to be in complete violation of the church and state rules.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 603:

REP. DENNIS NATHE, House District No. 19, sponsor of the bill, stated that the bill would provide statewide aid for libraries. He reviewed the bill at this point. He then submitted a handout to show the committee how the money would be distributed throughout the State of Montana. See EXHIBIT # 3.

PROPONENTS:

MARY HUDSPETH, Chairman of the State Library Commission spoke in support of HB # 603. She said she encourages state support because it continues to provide equal access to information. She asked the committee to please consider that as they evaluate HB # 603 and urged the committee's support.

ELLEN NEWBURG, Director of the Public Library in Billings, read her prepared statement in support of HB # 603. See

Education and Cultural Resources Committee February 13, 1987 Page Five

EXHIBIT # 4. She stated that it is generally held that America and the world are moving from the industrial age to the information age. Information is a new natural resource that we need to develop in Montana; a new commodity that we need to invest in and to develop to our best possible advantage.

DICK SWANSON, an artist and a user of the Helena Library, read his prepared statement, see EXHIBIT # 5, in support of HB # 603.

JUDY BOHRNSEN, Immediate Past Chairman of the Broad Valley Federation of Libraries. She said her aim is to stress the part in the bill that deals with providing base grants to local libraries for support of cooperative services through federations. She asked the committee to consider the importance of libraries when they vote on the bill.

DEBORAH SCHLESINGER, Legislative Chair for the Montana Library Association, rose in support of HB # 603. A copy of her testimony is attached as EXHIBIT # 6.

HARRIET MELOY, a Helena citizen, rose in support of HB # 603.

TONI HAGENER, Hill County Commissioner and President of the Montana Association of Counties, stood in support of HB # 603. She said she believes that state aid and grants are essential to the continued progress and improvement of public libraries, and to encourage the expansion of their services to the public. Interlibrary loans are extremely important, especially in the more isolated areas.

JULIE BURKE, representing the Montana Education Association rose in support of HB # 603.

KATHI HORRESI, representing the Montana Federation of Teachers and State Employees, stated on behalf of the members of the organizations, including librarians in Butte-Silver Bow and Jefferson Counties she expressed support of HB # 603.

BRENDA SCHYE, representing the Montana Cultural Advocacy, rose in support of HB # 603. A copy of her testimony is attached as EXHIBIT # 7.

REP. SWYSGOOD, House District No. 73, stated as a cosponsor of the bill he would urge the committee to pass the bill because it is an investment, as with all education;

Education and Cultural Resources Committee February 13, 1987 Page Six

it will be many times repaid.

REP. NELSON said he had just retired from library work, and would like to go on record as a proponent of the bill.

QUESTIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE:

A question and answer period followed concerning how much of the coal tax fund goes to the library federation; it was stated the federation received between \$400-450 thousand dollars each year for the past five years, but would probably only receive around \$300 thousand dollars in FY 87. It was also discussed whether all libraries in the state are eligible for the interlibrary program.

REP. NATHE closed by asking that the committee judge the bill on its merits and recommend a do pass, and let the appropriations committee worry about where they will get the money for the funding of the bill.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ACTION ON HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18:

REP. DAILY moved DO PASS on HJR # 18. CHAIRMAN SANDS called for discussion. He noted there was an amendment offered on page 1, line 15, to strike "infant" and insert "and his wife and child" and on page 1, line 14 to strike the words "and his wife". CHAIRMAN SANDS moved the amendment; the question was called, the motion CARRIED unanimously.

REP. NISBET noted there was another amendment that was proposed on line 7 after the word "instruction" to insert "and the board of public education", and also on line 10. He moved the amendment, the question was called, the motion CARRIED with Rep. Lory and Rep. Sands voting no. The question was then called on the DO PASS AS AMENDED motion, the motion CARRIED with 11 favorable and 7 opposing votes. Roll call # 3.

ACTION ON HOUSE BILL NO. 511:

REP. DAILY moved <u>DO PASS</u>. CHAIRMAN SANDS offered an amendment to the bill on page 2, line 16, to insert "NEW SECTION" Section 3. Implementation contingencey, etc., see EXHIBIT # 9. REP. WILLIAMS asked if that would still leave the trustees obligated to increase the financing to the degree of what the other half would be. CHAIRMAN SANDS replied it would obligate the trustees to fund the program as long

Education and Cultural Resources Committee February 13, 1987 Page Seven

as there was \$500 per student available from the federal government.

REP. EUDAILY made a substitute motion to delete on line 4, the words "at least one-half of" so the bill would read if the federal government does not appropriate the authorized amount. REP. WILLIAMS stated he would support the motion because he was concerned about the way the bill was originally written, that if the federal government did not come through with the funds then the State of Montana was obligated to finance the program, and it is not capable of doing that. A lengthy discussion was held on the funding of the program.

REP. EUDAILY moved the substitute amendment. CHAIRMAN SANDS noted the question had been called, the motion CARRIED with 11 favorable and 7 opposing votes. Roll call # 4.

REP. DAILY moved HB # 511 DO PASS AS AMENDED. CHAIRMAN SANDS called for further discussion. REP. EUDAILY stated that the bill includes 3 to 6 year olds inclusive and the 6 years olds are already included in the present statutes. REP. GLASER said the bill should be changed to read preschool children of the ages 3, 4 and 5 inclusive, and moved that amendment. The question was called on the amendment, the motion CARRIED unanimously.

CHAIRMAN SANDS called for further discussion on the bill. There being none, the question was called on REP. DAILY'S motion that HB # 511 DO PASS AS AMENDED. The motion CARRIED unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the committee the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

REP. JACK SANDS, CHAIRMAN

DAILY ROLL CALL

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOUCES COMMITTEE

50th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1987

Date FEBRUARY 13, 1987

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
REP. JACK SANDS, CHAIRMAN	Х		
REP. RICHARD NELSON, VICE CHRMN.	X		
REP. FRITZ DAILY	Χ.		
REP. RALPH EUDAILY	X		
REP. WILLIAM GLASER	X		
REP. DAN HARRINGTON	Х		
REP. NANCY KEENAN	•	Х	
REP. ROLAND KENNERLY	X		
REP. EARL LORY	Х		
REP. JOHN MERCER		X	
REP. GERALD NISBET	Х		
REP. JOHN PHILLIPS	X		
REP. TED SCHYE	X		
REP. BARRY STANG	X		_
REP. TONIA STRATFORD	X		
REP. CHARLES SWYSGOOD	Х		
REP. FRED THOMAS		Х	
REP. MEL WILLIAMS	· X		

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

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Mr.	Speaker: We, the committee	on	EDUCATION	AHD	CULTURAL	RESOURCES	3
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	Strike: remainder Page 2, line 2. Following: "(b) a" Insert: "limited" Following: "for th Insert: "school fi Page 2, line 7.	e **			·.	line 7	
	Following: "as a" Insert: "limited" Page 2, line 9.						
5.	Strike: "issued by Insert: "which mus Page 2, line 10. Strike: "June 30"	the dis	strict*				
	Insert: "November 3 Following: "of the insert: "school fi	scal yea	r followin	g th	e a		
7.	Page 2, lines 11 to	o 15.		-		•	
8,	Strike: lines 11 to Page 2, line 16. Following: "earmar: Insert: "limited"		The second of th	on	line 15		
9.	Page 3, line 18. Following: "any" Insert: "limited"					•	
lo.	Page 3, line 19. Strike: "for the en	nsuing s	chool fisc	al y	car"		

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ROLL CALL VOTE

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOUCES C	OMMITTEE	
DATE FEB. 13, 1987 BILL NO. HB # 118 N	UMBER 1	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
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REP. JACK SANDS, CHAIRMAN REP. RICHARD NELSON, VICE CHAIRMAN	+	
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REP. RALPH EUDAILY		
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REP. JOHN MERCER		
REP. GERALD NISBET		
REP. JOHN PHILLIPS		
REP. TED SCHYE		
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MOTION: REP. EUDAILY moved DO PASS AS AMENDED,	, THE MOTION	
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STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

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ROLL CALL VOTE

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOUCES	COMMITTEE		
DATE FEB. 13, 1987 BILL NO. HJR # 18	NUMBER	3	
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NAME		AYE	NAY
REP. JACK SANDS, CHAIRMAN			/
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REP. FRITZ DAILY		/	
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MOTION: REP. DAILY moved DO PASS AS AMEND	ED - the	motion	
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STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

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Mr. Speaker: We,	the committee	on	EDUCATION	AND	CULTURAL	RESOURCES	. ·
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ROLL CALL VOTE

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NAME .	AYE	NAY
REP. JACK SANDS, CHAIRMAN		
REP. RICHARD NELSON, VICE CHAIRMAN		
REP. FRITZ DAILY	V	
REP. RALPH EUDAILY	V	
REP. WILLIAM GLASER		/
REP. DAN HARRINGTON		
REP. NANCY KEENAN		<u> </u>
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OTION: REP. HARRINGTON moved DO PASS - the m	otion CARRIE	
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STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

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k,	Mr. Speaker:	We, the c	ommitte	ee on .		EDUCATION	AMD	CULTURAL	RESOURCES	<u> </u>
	report	HOUSE	BILL	NO.	365					
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STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

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Mr. Speaker: We, the committe	EDUCATION	AND	CULTURAL	RESOL	IRCES	****	
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			REP.	JACK SAM	IDS,		Chairman

STATEMENT OF INTENT House Bill No. 365

A statement of intent is required for this bill because section 1 provides that the board of public education shall adopt rules for student assessment in the public schools of Montana. The legislature intends for the board to adopt rules regarding:

- (1) the types of student assessment tests that may be used;
- (2) the grade levels to be tested;
- (3) the time of testing;
- (4) procurement of testing data;
- (5) provisions for confidentiality of test results;
- (6) responsibilities for the office of the superintendent of public instruction; and
- (7) other provisions that the board considers vital to the student assessment program.

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ROLL CALL VOTE

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOUCES		COMMITTEE			
DATE FEB. 13, 1987 BILL NO. HB #	<u>511</u> N	UMBER 4			
NAME		AYE	NAY		
REP. JACK SANDS, CHAIRMAN					
REP. RICHARD NELSON, VICE CHAIRMAN					
REP. FRITZ DAILY					
REP. RALPH EUDATLY					
REP. WILLIAM GLASER					
REP. DAN HARRINGTON					
REP. NANCY KEENAN					
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MOTION: REP. EUDAILY made a substi	tute motion	n to delete	the		
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words "at least one-half of" on lin	e 4.				
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EXHBIO.

HB井

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INTRODUCED BY $NATH^{2}$.

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO ALLOW THE TRUSTEES

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OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT TO ESTABLISH A DEBT SERVICE FUND CASH

RESERVE GHAT MAY NOT EXCEED 50 PERCENT OF THE FINAL BEBT

SERVICE FUND BUDGET, AND AMENDING SECTIONS 20-9-438 AND

20-9-439, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 20-9-438, MCA, is amended to read:
"20-9-438. Preparation of debt service fund budget —
cash reserve. (1) The trustees of each school district having outstanding bonds shall include in the debt service fund of the preliminary budget adopted in accordance with 20-9-113 an amount of money that is necessary to pay the interest and the principal amount becoming due during the ensuing school fiscal year for each series or installment of bonds, according to the terms and conditions of such bonds and the redemption plans of the trustees.

(2) The trustees shall also include in the debt service fund of the preliminary budget:

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(a) the amount of money necessary to pay the special improvement district assessments levied against the school

district which become due during the ensuing school fiscal

Montana Legislative Council

year; and limited year following the

(b) a cash reserve for the Aensuing school fiscal year

as provided in subsection (3).

warrants and bond obligations issued by the dietrice from however the dietrice from July 1 through from 96 of the Action of School fiscal year. fund trustees of a school district may designate a portion of the end-of-the-year cash balance not earmarked for cash reserve purposes must be reappropriated to be used for property tax reserve for the purpose of paying, The amount of debt service fund cash belance that is earmarked as a cash reserve may not exceed 50% of the final and may not be used for property tax reduction in the manner dabt service fund budget for the ensuing school fiscal year warrants and bond obligations issued by the dirt in end-of-the-year cash balance of the debt service fund to nermitted by 20-9-439. Any portion of the debt service school fiscal whenever a cash flow shortage occurs, each of earmarked as a cash re end (3) At the

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preliminary budgeted amount for the debt service fund with the bond retirement and interest requirement and the special improvement district assessments for the school fiscal year just beginning as reported by the county treasurer in his statement supplied under the provisions of 20-9-121. If the county superintendent finds that the requirement stated by

reduction as provided in 20-9-439.

-2- INTRODUCED BILL H8-118

budget expenditure amount for the debt service fund of such service fund of the preliminary budget. The amount confirmed or revised by the county superintendent shall be the final more than the preliminary budget in the debt principal county superintendent shall or interest treasurer is amount for school district." the county the

the superintendent shall compute the levy requirement for each Section 2. Section 20-9-439, MCA, is amended to read: net levy requirement --oĘ school district's debt service fund on the basis The (1) procedure when levy inadequate. Computation of following procedure: "20-9-439.

determine the total moneys available in the debt o service fund for the reduction of the property tax district by totaling: (a)

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earned

(ii) anticipated interest to be

the end-of-the-year cash balance, less any outstanding warrants in the debt service fund and less any as provided reserve for the enguing school fiscal year in 20-9-438 18

pouq investment of debt service cash in accordance with the of provisions of 20-9-213(4) or by the investment proceeds under the provisions of 20-9-435; and

24

school fiscal year from such sources as legally authorized be available in the debt service fund during the ensuing from rental money transfers into the debt service fund or

tax, determined in subsection (1)(a), shall be subtracted (b) the total amount available to reduce the property from the final budget expenditure amount for the debt service fund as established in 20-9-438;

determined in subsection (1)(b) shall be reported to the county commissioners on the second Monday of August by the county superintendent as the net debt service fund levy equirement for the district, and a levy shall be made by (c) the net debt service fund levy requirement the county commissioners in accordance with 20-9-142.

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series of bonds of any school district sufficient to raise becoming due during the next ensuing school fiscal year, in any taxpayer of the district may apply to the district court of the county in which such school district is located for a writ of mandate to compel the board of county commissioners (2) If the board of county commissioners shall fail in any school fiscal year to make a levy for any issue or the moneys necessary for payment of interest and principal such amounts as are established under the provisions of this section, the holder of any bond of such issue or saries or of such county to make a sufficient levy for such purposes.

(iii) any other moneys anticipated by the trustees to

DATE 2-13-87 HB # 31.5

50th Legislature

LC 450

STATEMENT OF INTENT

House Bill No. 365

A statement of intent is required for this bill because section 1 provides that the board of public education shall adopt rules for student assessment in the public schools of Montana. The legislature intends for the board to adopt rules regarding:

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- (2) the grade levels to be tested;
- (3) the time of testing;
- (4) procurement of testing data;
- (5) provisions for confidentiality of test results;
- (6) responsibilities for the office of the superintendent of public instruction; and
- (7) other provisions that the board considers vital to the student assessment program.

DATE 2-13-84 HB # 1.003

LIBRARY FUNDING BASED ON \$1 PER CAPITA AND \$1 PER SQUARE MILE TN

COUNTY	AREA IN SQUARE MILES	POPULATION	TOTAL PROPOSED FUNDING
Beaverhead	5,529	8,186	\$13,718
Bighorn	4,983	11,096	16,079
Blaine	4,259	6,999	11,258
Broadwater	1,188	3,267	4,455
Carbon Carter Cascade Chouteau Custer	2,056	8,099	10,155
	3,342	1,799	5,141
	2,699	80,696	83,395
	3,988	6,092	10,080
	3,776	13,109	16,885
Daniels	1,427	2,835	4,262
Dawson	2,374	11,805	14,179
Deerlodge	740	12,518	13,258
Fallon	1,623	3,763	5,386
Fergus	4,340	13,076	17,416
Flathead	5,112	51,966	57,966
Gallatin	2,510	42,865	45,375
Garfield	4,491	1,656	6,147
Glacier	2,995	10,628	13,623
Golden Valle	y 1,172	1,026	4,429
Granite	1,729	2,700	4,429
Hill	2,897	17,985	20,822
Jefferson	1,656	7,029	8,685
Judith Basin	1,871	2,646	4,517
Lake	1,493	19,056	20,549
Lewis & Clar	k 3,461	43,039	46,500
Liberty	1,427	2,329	3,756
Lincoln	3,616	17,752	21,368
McCone	2,626	2,702	5,328
Madison	3,590	5,448	9,028
Meagher	2,392	2,154	4,546
Mineral	1,216	3,675	4,891
Missoula	2,582	76,016	78,598
Musselshell	1,871	4,428	6,299

Park Petroleum Phillips Pondera Powder River Powell Prairie	2,665 1,652 5,131 1,632 3,288 2,329 1,732	12,660 655 5,367 6,731 2,520 6,958 1,836	15,325 2,307 10,498 8,363 5,808 9,287 3,568
Ravalli	2,384	22,493	24,877
Richland	2,081	12,243	14,324
Roosevelt	2,357	10,467	12,824
Rosebud	5,019	9,899	14,918
Sanders	2,749	8,675	11,424
Sheridan	1,681	5,414	7,095
Silver Bow	719	38,092	38,811
Stillwater	1,793	5,598	7,391
Sweet Grass	1,856	3,216	5,072
Teton	2,275	6,419	8,766
Toole	1,931	5,559	7,490
Treasure	975	981	1,956
Valley	4,936	10,250	15,186
Wheatland	1,419	2,359	3,778
Wibaux	888	1,476	2,364
Yellowstone Yellowstone	2,624	108,035	110,659
National Park	245	275	520
TOTAL 1	45,392	786,690	\$932,082

DATE 2-13-87
HB # 603

Ellen Newberg

925 Burlington Avenue Billings, Montana 59102

February 13, 1987

STATE AID FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES: REP. NATHE

TESTIMONY FOR H.B. 603

Chairman Sands, members of the Education and Cultural Resources Committee, my name is Ellen Newberg. I am from Billings where I am the director of the public library.

Ladies and gentlemen, the issue of H.B. 603 is information and the people in Montana who use it. It is generally held that America and the world are moving from the Industrial Age to the Information Age. Montana, as it has recently discovered to its dismay, is indeed a member of the world economic community, a community which is increasingly driven by information. The people who have access to it, who control it, and who know what's available and how to use it are calling a lot of the shots today, and will continue to do so in the future. Information is the NEW, good old American knowhow.

Montanans need access to that information to stay competitive, and to not be, as David Birch of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology called us last summer in Butte, a Third World State.

Who are Montana's information users, and what kinds of information do they need? They are:

*the attorney who wants a Westlaw or a Lexis electronic data base search to research a case rapidly and thoroughly;

*the local inventor who wants patent searches;

*the stockbroker who needs the parent company address of a brokerage firm that left town fifteen years ago;

*the physician who needs a Medline electronic data base search on a new treatment breakthrough;

*the small manufacturer who wants a list of wholesale sporting goods firms in the Denver and Minneapolis areas;

*the small business that is developing a mailing list for its product;

*the rancher who is looking for information on the Savory method of grazing.

Where are Montanans going to get access to this information? Many places, obviously, but I submit that the most cost effective, thorough, and efficient way is through libraries.

And, how does this all relate to H.B. 603? Of course, it takes money to fund the information that Montanans need. There is not as much of that at the local level where public libraries are funded. You are all too familiar with the woes of local governments as they see revenue sharing, energy revenue, and taxable valuations shrink or disappear altogether.

H.B. 603 is an investment in and a guarantee that the information Montana needs so badly to remain competitive in regional, national, and even world markets will be available. Information is a new natural resource that we need to develop in Montana; a new commodity that we need to invest in and to develop to our best possible advantage.

I ask that you place H.B. 603 in the context of these remarks as you consider bringing it out of committee. Thank you.

Ellen Mubely
Office Phone (406) 657-8292

Home Phone (406) 245-5483

EXHIBIT # 5

DATE 2-13.87

HB #1.03

Testimony on HB 603

Bick Swanson

Mr. Chair man, members of the committee, I am Dick Swanson a library user in the Helena communitee.

I will address my remarks to two specific aspects that House Bill 603 would fund - interlibrary loans and a statewide library card program.

First - Interlibrary Loans:

My profession is that of an artist. I make ample use of the art book collections of both Lewis & Clark Library and Montana State Library. To a great extent my professional growth depends on being able to compare my own endeavors to the world's best art. This sometimes means getting access to books or articles that are not in local collections and which are often too expensive for me to buy. While this is crucial to me as an artist in Helena, how much more crucial is it to an artist in a smaller community that does not have large public book collections? For that matter, how about any professional needing to stay on top of his profession or any person desiring the best knowledge on any subject! Access to information is the key to continuing education in any field, whether an artist or lawyer or weekend gardener.

Interlibrary loans extend the resources of even the smallest libraries to include the resources of much larger collections across the country.

Regarding Statewide Library Cards:

Again, access to information is the key! A statewide library card would greatly simplify access to information by allowing people to check out materials directly without going through the paperwork and waiting period now necessary.

In summary, both interlibrary loans and statewide library cards make available information that would not otherwise be available for self-education of Montana citizens. So much of continuing education is self-education. It is a very efficient type of learning because the people involved are motivated by their own desire to learn about a particular area.

By funding such programs as interlibrary loans and statewide library cards the State of Montana is making available the best information to its citizens at a very low cost per individual. If our artists, our lawyers, our doctors, our parents, our people (whatever their interests) are improving themselves, then Montana will have improved itself at bargain prices!

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HB 603

Deborah Schlesinger, Legislative Chair, Montana Library Association

Chairman Sands, Members of the Committee

I urge your support of HB 603. A section of this bill provides for monies to finance a statewide library card. That means that any Montanan can check a book out of any participating library anywhere in the state without charge. You can't do that now. Many parts of the state are far from libraries. A statewide library card would allow people to use a library that is most convenient to them, regardless of the county that they live in or that the library is in.

A pilot project funded by LSCA has been a huge success in southeastern Montana. Libraries joined together to promote intercounty borrowing. I am pleased to say not one book was lost and rural users had the opportunity to use other libraries at no inconvenience to anyone. The multilibrary service is "a great idea which has found its time." "It's a great way to increase available resources for library users and an efficient use of the money," are some of the comments collected during the project.

We have the same needs in other parts of the state. Lewis & Clark County has an excellent facility that residents of Jefferson and Broadwater County want to use. That privilege is presently restricted to those who can afford to pay the out-of-county fee, OP WHO LIVE, W COUNTIES THAT CAN AFFORD TO PAY FOR THOSE SERVICES

This statewide library card, or multilibrary card, would allow all the library resources of Montana to be shared by all Montanans. I urge your support for HB 603.

EXHIBIT # 7

DATE & -13-87

HB # 6.03

TESTIMONY ON HB 603 to the

HOUSE EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

by Brenda Schye Montana Cultural Advocacy

Chairman Sands, Members of the Committee: I am Brenda Schye, and I represent the Montana Cultural Advocacy, which is a broad cross-section of Montanans who are committed to the development of our state's cultural resources.

Libraries We renters for research, recreation, and lifelong learning. Obviously, libraries are a vital part of this state's cultural resources. Their role as a part of the larger educational community should not be overlooked.

These are transitional years for libraries. As we enter the age of automation and the information revolution, libraries are called upon to continue traditional library services as well as design and implement new ways to provide information with speed and efficiency. Yet, as demands on libraries have increased, funding has not kept pace.

If the need for library services declined during difficult economic times, decreased funding would not present a problem. Yet these are the times when, in many respects, libraries become more important. People who are less able to buy their own books, periodicals, and newspapers rely more on the library for information as well as entertainment.

We recognize that this Legislature must attempt to allocate limited revenues in ways that will have the most positive impact on the future of this state. There is a sincere attempt to weigh the impacts of statutory changes as well as budget decisions on the future of Montana's economy. Much attention is given to Montana's "business climate" in hopes that we can attract new businesses to Montana and help existing businesses to prosper.

As the Chamber of Commerce calls your attention to the business climate, we call your attention to the "cultural climate", which is not unrelated to the business climate. In looking back over a series of business climate studies done by Alexander Grant and Company, I found that business executives expressed dissatisfaction with these studies because of their failure to address quality of life issues such as the cultural climate. Since Alexander Grant and Co. is an accounting firm who doesn't know how to deal with issues that are not quantifiable in accounting terms, they acknowledged this as a gap in their studies.

Roger Schmenner of the Harvard Business School has written that business managers make business location decisions based on two or three key factors. In these decisions, the "quality of life" factor was as important as the perceived "business climate". Companies recognize that their employees must be happy with the quality of life in their area if they are to be productive, so they rank cultural amenities right up their with things such as energy costs and efficient transportation.

It would be shortsighted not to include development of our cultural resources (such as libraries) as part of our economic development efforts. Libraries can go a long way towards diminishing the impact of Montana's distance from urban centers, providing that they are funded well enough to keep pace with changing times.

This bill is important to citizens living in Montana today, and on that basis alone it has merit. But more importantly, it offers a positive future for our state. We urge your favorable consideration.

EXHIBIT # 8

DATE 2-13-87

HB # 603

2/13/87

To: Education and Cultural Resources Committee
Montana House of Representatives

From: Suzy Holt, Helena, a librarian who has served a full range of Montanans, from townsfolk of the isolated rural community of Augusta to the highly-trained specialists of Shodair Children's Specialty Hospital. I've served on the Montana Library Services Advisory Council for the past four years.

Re: State Aid to Libraries 4-3 603

This is an instance whereby the whole is made greater than the sum of its parts.

From my point of view, the most important aspect of this bill is the recognition it gives to, and the committment it establishes for, libraries as centers of information and knowledge for all Montana citizens.

It seeks to develop means whereby the full knowledge resources of the state are made readily accessible to even the most remote of our citizens.

It seeks to develop mechanisms whereby our knowledge resources are improved through coordinated efforts that identify areas of weakness statewide, and which avoid unnecessary areas of duplication in costly materials.

Montana's libraries, taken as a whole, can be a very significant factor in the future growth and development of our economy. They contribute not only to quality of life and increased opportunities for individuals in individual communities, but to the attractiveness of the state as a place to live and to its viability as a place to make a living.

When I'm able to obtain an article with information critical to a patient-care decision from one of the university libraries, or when I'm able to immediately send reassuring information about a rare children's disease to a worried parent in Wolf Point, I know our library system is working. When I see that exchange jeopardized by the economic constraints faced by individual institutions, I know it is time to speak up and say:

This cooperation among libraries and exchange of knowledge resources is essential to Montana and its citizens; please give it the necessary financial support.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

EXHIBIT # 9

DATE 2-13-87

HB # 603

Amendment to HB 511

1. Page 2.

Following: line 16

Insert: "NEW SECTION. Section 3. Implementation contingency. A board of trustees of a school district is not required to implement this act if the federal government does not appropriate at least one-half of the authorized amount for each qualifying handicapped preschool child for school fiscal year 1991 and beyond."

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DATE Z-13-87 HB #603 LC 694

50th Legislature

STATEMENT OF INTENT
Bill No. $\frac{1}{2}$

A statement of intent is required for this bill because section 5 grants the state library commission authority to promulgate rules and procedures to implement state aid to public libraries on a per capita and per square mile basis, to establish a reimbursement program for interlibrary loans, and to establish a statewide multilibrary card program.

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EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOUCES COMMITTEE

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EDUCATION	AND	CULTURAL	RESOUCES	COMMITTEE
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BILL NO. HOUSE BILL # 601	DATE February 13, 1987			
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EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOUCES COMMITTEE

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EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOUCES COMMITTEE

BILL NO.	HOUSE BILL # 603	DATE February 13,	1987	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
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