

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

April 22, 1987

The twenty-ninth meeting of the Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee was called to order by the chairman, Senator Bob Brown, at 2:17 p.m. in Room 402 of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: All committee members were present with the exception of Senators Smith and Regan.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 58: REPRESENTATIVE HARPER, District 44, presented the resolution for the sponsor, Representative Asay, District 27. The resolution urges the Commissioner of Higher Education to establish a task force on telecommunications technologies for Montana. The task force would study and coordinate the implementation of telecommunications and technology based delivery systems for education, government and the private sector. The task force would consist of 11 members, including two from the legislature, four appointed by the Governor, (including one each from the Department of Administration, Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, and the public at large) one member from the Office of Public Instruction, one member from the Board of Regents, one from the Board of Public Education, and two appointed by the Governor to represent private industry engaged in delivery of telecommunication technology in Montana.

PROPOSERS: GERALYN DRISCOLL, Public Service Commission, supported the resolution and presented a proposed amendment which would include a member appointed to the task force by the Public Service Commission. (Exhibit 1).

TOM MCGEE, Mountain Bell, supported the resolution. He said he had no idea what the financial impact would be.

BRUCE MOERER, Montana School Boards Association, supported the resolution as an exciting and efficient way to share communication between teachers, courses, schools and industry. He felt the resolution would provide very real long-range benefits to rural and urban areas as well as universities.

There were no opponents.

DISCUSSION BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS: SENATOR BLAYLOCK asked Danny Oberg, Public Service Commission, if it was important to amend the resolution, as it is the end of the session, and an amendment could possibly keep it from completing the legislative process.

MR. OBERG said they could monitor the task force, but it would be better to be on it.

SENATOR MAZUREK asked why the Public Service Commission feels it needs to be represented on the task force.

MR. OBERG said private industry would be represented and could be making investments in the plan that is developed. It is the PSC's duty to monitor those groups and agencies and he felt the expertise of the PSC could help.

SENATOR BLAYLOCK asked if they couldn't do that without being members.

MR. OBERG said they would try.

REPRESENTATIVE HARPER closed by saying the PSC could be represented by virtue of gubernatorial appointment. He said the potential benefits are mind-boggling. He felt it was safest not to amend the resolution to be sure of passage.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ACTION ON HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 58: SENATOR MAZUREK moved HJR 58 BE CONCURRED IN. The motion CARRIED unanimously.

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

  
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SENATOR BOB BROWN, Chairman

jdr

ROLL CALL

SENATE EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

50th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1987

Date 4/22/87

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
SENATOR BOB BROWN	✓		
SENATOR CHET BLAYLOCK	✓		
SENATOR GEORGE McCALLUM	✓		
SENATOR ED SMITH		✓	
SENATOR PAT REGAN			✓
SENATOR JOE MAZUREK	✓		
SENATOR BILL FARRELL	✓		
SENATOR TED NEUMAN	✓		
SENATOR DICK PINSONEAULT	✓		
SENATOR SWEDE HAMMOND	✓		

Each day attach to minutes.

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 1

DATE 4/22/87

BILL NO. ~~5~~ HJR 58

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS FOR  
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 58

1. Page 4, line 3.

Following: "telecommunications technology in Montana."

Insert: "(g) one member appointed by the Public Service  
Commission."

# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

April 22,

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MR. PRESIDENT

We, your committee on EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

having had under consideration HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 58

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**INTERIM STUDY OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY FOR MONTANA**

**ASAY (BLAYLOCK)**

Respectfully report as follows: That HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 58

BE CONCURRED IN

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SENATOR BOB BROWN

Chairman.