

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 51st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Call to Order: By Chairman Peck, on March 16, 1989, at 7:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: All

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Keith Wolcott, Senior Fiscal Analyst
Sandy Whitney, Associate Fiscal Analyst
Joe Williams, Budget Analyst, OBPP
Claudia Johnson, Committee Secretary

Announcements/Discussion: None

HEARING ON HOUSE BILL 398

Tape No. 1\1:000

(037)

Presentation and Opening Statement:

Rep. Westlake, House District 76, stated this bill is a request for a grant of \$160,000 for the Certified Seed Potato Growers Association for the next biennium. Rep. Westlake stated this grant will provide additional facilities at Montana State University to create more capacity to produce certified virus free potato seed. Rep. Westlake stated the request in this bill is specifically earmarked for this project and the money comes from coal severance tax. The money from the renewable resource development account is projected at \$460,000 for this biennium with \$230,000 for debt retirement and a balance of \$230,000. Rep. Westlake stated that this bill is a request for that money to be allocated from that fund. Rep. Westlake read a letter that Rep. Bardanouve had received from Dorsey and Whitney law firm regarding the bonding and how it can be allocated from this fund addressing the \$160,000 from the renewable resources development bond fund for MSU. It is the law firm's opinion that the appropriation in the bill is not consistent with the statutes but can be achieved from another source. The money in the debt service is to be used to pay the interest, principle and redemption when due and payable. The law firm stated that since the money in the debt service fund may only be used to pay debt service on bonds, they do not

believe the appropriation contemplated by this bill is appropriate, but it could be accomplished by appropriating money from the renewable resource development fund account that was created under the statute that says the state can reserve the right to modify from time to time the nature and amount of special taxes pledged and appropriated to the debt service fund if the aggregate money so pledged are adequate to pay the bonds then it will be possible for Legislature to appropriate money for the project from the debt service fund if Legislature can find in the Appropriation Bill that the aggregate resources are sufficient for the full payment of and interest on all bonds payable from that fund providing that the pledge from the state shall be irrevocable until fully paid. Rep. Westlake stated that the cost of the program is entirely funded by the potato growers and with the equipment that is to be purchased with this money to produce more virus free seed could bring in \$15 to \$20 million more per year. Rep. Westlake stated the new piece of equipment they want to purchase can also be used for the Spring Wheat Breeder program. Rep. Westlake urged the Committee to support the amendment that is being drafted and make the money available.

Questions from the Subcommittee Members:

(120)

Keith Wolcott informed Rep. Peck that he understood from Carroll South that the money has already been spent.

Rep. Westlake stated he had visited with Richard Pettish, DNRC, about a week ago regarding the figures and Mr. Pettish had informed him that the figures were correct and he did not know if there were other requests for this money.

Rep. Peck stated that the Subcommittee could take action subject to availability of funds to give the recommendations to the full Committee of Appropriations on that basis.

EXECUTIVE ACTION:

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 398

Tape No. 1\1:155

Motion: Rep. Marks moved a do pass, subject to availability of funds for HB 398.

Discussion: None

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: None

Recommendation and Vote: Sen. Hammond called the question. The motion CARRIED unanimously to DO PASS.

HEARING ON HOUSE BILL 400

Tape No. 1\1:163

Presentation and Opening Statement:

Rep. Vincent, House District 80, briefly reviewed his bill that creates a Montana Centennial Scholarship program. Rep. Vincent stated with this year being Montana's bicentennial year that a permanent long term investment in the schoolchildren could be created by providing some matching money for local districts to create scholarship trust funds. Rep. Vincent stated that Montana currently ranks 37th in the nation for availability of scholarship money for the children going on to higher education. With the cost of colleges on the rise of about 7 percent a year for the next 15 or 20 years, this bill would appropriate about \$1.5 million and would allocate this on a matching basis to first class, second class and third class high school districts around the state if they raise the necessary matching funding amount. The combination of that money raised would create a scholarship account for that local district and the generated amount of the interest will be used for the scholarship program that could go on forever. Rep. Vincent stated this will provide an opportunity for the faculty and children to have fund raising efforts to match those funds from the state. Rep. Vincent stated that a first-class high school district would receive \$20,000, second-class would receive \$10,000 and a third-class high school would receive \$5,000.

Questions From Subcommittee Members: Rep. Marks asked Rep. Vincent why it will be the Dept. of Administration that distributes the money on an appropriated match? Rep. Vincent replied that it was the discretion of a council that the Dept. of Administration would actually distribute the money to the local school districts. Rep. Vincent stated the administration of the scholarships will be done at the local district.

Rep. Marks asked Rep. Vincent if this was a one time only for the funding? Rep. Vincent stated that was correct because the way it was created it should generate enough funding to keep it going.

Rep. Nathe asked Rep. Vincent if private schools would be able to participate in this program? Rep. Vincent stated they could not. Rep. Vincent commented that it could not be used for students going out of state, but does not preclude attendance at Rocky Mountain College, Carroll College or the College of Great Falls.

Rep. Kadas asked Rep. Vincent if the high schools could generate matching funds through donations? Rep. Vincent stated they could and that is what this bill is all about, fund raisers etc.

Sen. Jacobson asked Rep. Vincent how he arrived at the \$1.5 million dollars? Rep. Vincent stated it started out by taking a look at the total number of the high school districts and prorated it by giving each of those high school districts \$10,000.

Rep. Kadas asked Rep. Vincent if the local districts wanted to put in more money than the match would they be restricted from doing that? Rep. Vincent replied that he did not know.

EXECUTIVE ACTION:

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 400

Tape No. 1\1:340

Motion: Rep. Kadas moved a do pass.

Amendments, Discussions, and Votes: Rep. Marks stated that the amendments that are in it should be taken care of on line 4, page 2, to strike the word "two" because it does not go along with the rest of the bill and on line 11, page 2, strike the word "equal" because it is a 2/1 match now.

Rep. Peck advised the Subcommittee that they cannot amend bills, but can advise the Appropriation's Committee in regards to those corrections.

The question was called. The motion CARRIED 5/2 to DO PASS.
Sen. Hammond and Rep. Marks voted no.

HEARING ON HOUSE BILL 731

Tape No. 1\1:388

Presentation and Opening Statement:

Rep. Simon, House District 91, stated HB 731 is an effort to try and address the health care crises that the state of Montana is facing. Rep. Simon stated he had served on the University System task force on Nursing Education and found that the state of Montana is falling short of educating nurses by approximately 200 a year and is projected the same into the future. Rep. Simon stated that Montana already has a nursing shortage and by not educating the nurses for the projected needs in the future that there will be a compounded crises. Rep. Simon stated this bill will appropriate funds to provide classes on a rotating basis between Billings, Great Falls and Missoula with the 5 nursing courses that are only taught in Bozeman at this time on a sophomore level. Rep. Simon stated that the students can start college elsewhere but have to go to Bozeman their sophomore year for the 5 courses required for that year and

then return to their extended colleges to finish their education and many of these students are place-bound and cannot leave because they are either married with children or single head of household working to support their families and cannot afford to quit their job and move to Bozeman for those 2 quarters when those 5 courses are given. Rep. Simon said this bill will allow the University System to provide in the summertime courses on the rotating basis so the place-bound students can be attracted into the nursing program. Rep. Simon pointed out an error on the bill for the second year the funding should read \$53,788 not the \$183,071 that is shown on the bill.

Questions From Subcommittee Members: Rep. Peck asked Rep. Simon if he could explain the rotation? Rep. Simon replied that the 5 courses have to be taken in sequence. The idea would be to offer the first level of prerequisite classes in one location then the next summer the following classes would be offered but would not make all the classes available in any one location and would take several years to take those five courses that are required.

Rep. Kadas asked Marilyn Wessel of MSU if students from Billings, Great Falls etc., who would prefer to take it in their hometown instead of going to Bozeman how will you prioritize the students? Ms. Wessel stated they have tried to define that line with the Board of Regents and they will have the task to decide who is a place-bound student. Marilyn stated the students can submit petitions to give in detail their economic circumstances, child care needs etc., and the board will be working on this issue to make it fair and to make sure the program is used to serve the students that were contemplated when this bill was written.

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Rep. Peck asked Dr. Teitz if he would comment about the prioritization of students to be accepted! Dr. Teitz commented that one of the factors that hasn't been mentioned is the limited number of positions in the summer rotation courses and if there aren't enough place-bound students to fill the class the regular students will be able to use this program.

Sen. Hammond asked Dr. Tietz how many graduate each year out of the nursing program? Dr. Tietz replied there are about 120.

Sen. Jacobson asked Dr. Tietz about the availability of instructors for the program? Dr. Tietz answered that it is provided for in the bill, and some of the faculty members that are 9 month appointments will also receive summer appointments to conduct the program. Dr. Tietz stated that these courses will be offered where there are existing nursing programs and the faculty from the those local colleges will be teaching the courses and they will probably

have some supervision from the MSU.

EXECUTIVE ACTION:

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 731

Tape No. 1\2:764

Motion: Sen. Hammond moved a do pass for HB 731.

Discussion: Sen. Jacobson stated she opposed the bill because after looking at the nurses training program this last interim and with the expansion of the Northern Montana campus program and Miles City that has a long list because they cannot get enough instructors to teach the courses, she did not think that this would accomplish the problem with the instructors and low pay.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: The question was called. Roll call vote was taken and FAILED 5/2 to DO NOT PASS. Rep. Peck, Sen. Boylan, Sen. Jacobson, Rep. Marks and Sen. Nathe voted no.

There being no further business the Subcommittee was adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment At: 8:00 a.m.



REP. Ray Peck, Chairman

RP/cj

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DAILY ROLL CALL

EDUCATION

SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE

DATE March 16, 1989

[illegible]

ROLL CALL VOTE

EDUCATION

SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE March 16 AGENCY HB 731 NUMBER _____

[illegible]

TALLY

25

Candice Johnson
Secretary

Secretary

Rep Ray Beck
Chairman

Chairman

Motion: Sen. Hammond moved a Do Pass for the rotating nurses course for Billings, Great Falls and Missoula.
The motion failed 2/5