MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 53rd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Call to Order: By Senator Blaylock, on January 22, 1993, at 1:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Chet Blaylock, Chair (D)

Sen. Harry Fritz, Vice Chair (D)

Sen. Bob Brown (R)

Sen. John Hertel (R)

Sen. Dennis Nathe (R)

Sen. Spook Stang (D)

Sen. Daryl Toews (R)

Sen. Mignon Waterman (D)

Sen. Bill Wilson (D)

Sen. Bill Yellowtail (D)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Eddye McClure, Legislative Council

Sylvia Kinsey, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and

discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing: SB, 178, SB 188, SB 208, HB 53

Executive Action: None

HEARING ON HOUSE BILL 53

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Representative Steve Benedict, HD 64, Hamilton, said HB 53 would allow a Board of County Commissioners to establish a County Superintendent of Schools as a part-time office. He referred to safe-guards in the bill for the incumbent and for the district duties of the Superintendent. With the number of rural schools in Montana decreasing and with it the over all scope of statutory duties performed by the County Superintendent.

Proponents' Testimony:

Mona Nutting, Commissioner from Carbon County and the new president of MACO, said with the decreasing number of rural schools and the juggling of funds, the County Commissioners are asking to be given the legislative authority to determine that the office of the County Superintendent of Schools of certain individual counties can function efficiently on a part-time or flexible time basis.

Vicki Hyatt, Stillwater County Commissioner, said she was in favor of HB 64. They find they are in violation of state law in their county. Much of the time they have a single person elected and in their office. She is gone quite often, and there are complaints from the constituency about keeping the office open. She said Section 3 on public hearing would safeguard the decision.

Rachel Vielleux, Missoula County Superintendent of Schools, and speaking on behalf of the Montana Association of County School Superintendents said they have supported MACO in their attempt to pass this bill which would allow counties the kind of flexibility they need in the face of I105 and the shrinking revenue.

Loren Frazier, School Administrators of Montana said they support this bill.

Opponents' Testimony:

None.

Informational Testimony:

None.

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

Senator Yellowtail said he had heard much consternation on the part of elected county officials who feel County Commissioners sometimes meddle in the details, the budgets and the offices of the other elected officials. He was surprised to have County Superintendents coming in and voluntarily conceding this authority to County Commissioners. He asked if this is what we really want to do and asked of there is a provision in this statute for some initiative on the part of the sitting elected County Superintendent. He asked if the County Commissioners could independently impose a part-time structure on the office of the County Superintendent. Representative Benedict said the bill specifically references incumbents which says the County Commissioners cannot make it a part time office until the next election cycle.

Senator Yellowtail said considering the timing element that is assured here, the County Commissioners can still reduce the office to a less than full time office without the consent of the incoming County Superintendent. Representative Benedict said

they could hold hearings and determine that it should be a parttime office at the next election cycle.

Ms. Vielleux said at the present time there are provisions in the statutes that allow for a variety of ways to provide these County Superintendent services. Mineral County contracts with Missoula County for hearings and supervision of rural schools. Their County Superintendent is combined with the Treasurer. She pointed out those counties that are looking at part-time County Superintendents could lose that position because the County Commissioners could combine it with another office. In Ravalli county the office is combined with that of the Clerk and Recorder. They have hired a part-time person as School Administrator to perform those functions. She said the effort in this bill is to preserve the elected office so there is some elected official to answer to the voters about taxes etc. If we don't concede that some of the offices need to be part-time, we will simply lose the office all together.

Senator Hertel said this bill does not have any guidelines which specify what constitutes reducing that particular time the Superintendent has. He asked if this could produce a problem. Representative Benedict said that was brought up in the House Education committee and the people who spoke on behalf of the bill indicated they needed this to be a local control issue and they needed the flexibility.

Senator Blaylock said there was a bill that was proposing the County Superintendent of Schools be relieved of the financial duties and leave the other duties for them to handle. Ms. Vielleux said the County Superintendents, District Clerks, District Trustee and MACO all testified against that bill. OPI took the position of neutrality.

Senator Blaylock asked about Ms. Vielleux how many rural schools she was able to visit per year. He was told she visited four of the schools at least once a month.

Senator Stang said when you have a part-time superintendent, you have a problem of people driving a long distance to see the County Superintendent and no one is there. He asked how that would be taken care of. Ms. Vielleux said that happens in her county many times. She has other commitments and people drop in and expect her to be there. We would have to set hours when we would definitely be there.

Senator Yellowtail said if we grant the authority to the County Commissioners to essentially regulate your office, including your time, why should we continue with the process of having an elected County Superintendent. Why not just turn this office over to the County Commissioners and permit them to hire someone, direct them, set the budget, etc. Ms. Vielleux said they can do that now. When they combine our office with, as in Mineral

County, the Treasurer's office, they made the decision that there was not enough work for a full time County Superintendent. The Treasurer is elected to fill the role of County Superintendent and they do the financial aspect. Anything that requires certified personnel, they hire.

Closing by Sponsor:

Representative Benedict closed by saying in regard to Senator Yellowtail's question about the possibility of County Commissioners deciding to make this a part-time office is incumbent on their making their intentions known prior to the filing deadline of the next election cycle. He said in smaller counties the needs are not so great that the public needs to be in contact with a County Superintendent every day. He told Senator Stang he did not believe there were enough people coming in every day to see the Superintendent to warrant having the office open every day.

HEARING ON SENATE BILL 188

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Senator Bob Hockett, Senate District 7, Havre, said they lease a lot of land in their operation in eastern Montana, but do not lease any state land, and he did not see any conflict of interest. He said the Department of State Lands (DSL) had asked him to carry this bill, and had some people from DSL who would testify on the bill. The bill provides for a commercial leaseholder of state land to sublease the state land for a profit and DSL would share in the profit the lessee would receive from the rental. He explained there are over 900 leases in DSL that are called special leases, 700 or more are cabin sites and do not count as commercial leases. The 150 or 200 commercial leases include billboards, radio, TV transmission sites, storage buildings, saw mill sites, etc. From the commercial leases in FY '92 the state received \$563,371 and with additional funds from subleases there would be more money going into the school equalization account.

Proponents' Testimony:

Jeff Hagener, Administrator of the Land Administration Division, DSL, said SB 188 would allow commercial lessees to sublet leases at a profit to them, but would allow the Dept. to share in those profits. He said a common example would be the billboards and communication sites where they would like to lease space on the billboard, and at the present time our statutes do not allow them to do that. He said with cellular telephones becoming a bigger item, they put up one tower at a major expense and would like to put more microwaves on which would be other entities. The lessees would like to sublease to help with their expenses and would be able to make a little profit. It is a common procedure in other states, and the general rule is close to a 50% share of

the profits. The state would get the original lease money plus 50% of the sublease, and it would give more money to the state. He said this does not affect agricultural, grazing nor cabin site leases.

Opponents' Testimony:

None.

Informational Testimony:

None.

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

Senator Blaylock asked if their legal counsel had checked to see that there would be no possibility of mischief in this bill. He said he had been very uneasy about subleases. Mr. Hagener said it was fairly clear in their minds that at the present time it would clear up a lot of issues where they are looking at possibly cancellation of leases because people are up there trespassing with an additional microwave dish, and they are charging a profit on the lease.

Senator Blaylock asked if Mr. Hagener believed the state would be better off with this bill and was told yes, it gives clear legal authority on this issue and would benefit the trust which would be receiving more money from the lease.

Senator Blaylock asked how the Department could find out about a sublease and Mr. Hagener said generally they will see there is an additional microwave or an additional billboard and most of them have a label, and can be contacted. If this bill passes, they would put the restrictions and regulations in the lease. He said they are looking at trying to get more development into commercial leases. They have some tracts in the larger cities that have the potential of bringing in some large amounts of money to the school trust and one of the questions they have been asked is whether it would be possible to sublease portions of the original lease. They have indicated they could give a much higher bid on that overall package if they had the opportunity to sublease. He gave the example of someone wanting to build an office building, but would not occupy all the space.

Senator Nathe asked John North, Legal Counsel, DSL, if there is any way this could be construed to spill over into agriculture leases and Mr. North answered no. The classification for leasing purposes is contained in a section that is not amended by this bill, 77-6-102, and indicates the Dept. shall lease agriculture, grazing, town lots, city lots and lands valuable for commercial development. He said the law clearly makes a distinction.

Senator Nathe said he was concerned because the way he read 77-6-208 is that we could go ahead and sublease agricultural land

leases, but said there is a complete separate section that prohibits subleasing. Mr. North said the section you see here prohibits it, but when you add subsection C to it, you see in line 10, page 2, we have specifically said "commercial leaseholder". This section applies to those grazing and agricultural lands, but the ability to sublease is specific to commercial by that language.

Senator Nathe said he had believed all subleases were prohibited on agricultural state land leases, and he is reading this as saying they really are not. He quoted pg 1 and top of page 2, "if a lessee, other than a holder of a commercial lease, subleases state lands on terms less advantageous to the sublessee than the terms given by the state". Mr. North said this is the provision that deals with subleasing at a profit. There are other provisions in the statute that deals with subleasing. Subleasing is allowable to a certain extent, but too many years it results in loss of preference rights and then cancellation.

Senator Yellowtail asked Mr. Hagener why do we not specify some percentage the lessee must pay the state in the case of a profitable sublease. Mr. Hagener said their regulations require they get the equivalent of what is considered to be the "community share". As a general rule it is 50%, but in other areas in other parts of the state there may be a difference. This would give the flexibility to look at what the share would be in another area.

Senator Blaylock asked Mr. North if he had any "feeling" on agricultural land, which does not really pertain to this bill. He asked how much cheating is going on and Mr. North said that is a question Mr. Hagener would have to deal with. If they find someone cheating it is reported to him, but he does not make any direct investigation. Mr. North responded to Senator Nathe's question by saying the specific statute is 77-6-212.

Mr. Hagener answered the question on agricultural and grazing leases in regard to cheating. He said they investigate 20 to 25 allegations of subleasing a year, and the general procedure with the landlord is cancellation and reinstatement with payment of the fine if they have not gone past the three year period. They go ahead with about 10 or 15 per year where they assess a fine. He said there are probably more out there, but that is how many they become aware of and "go after".

Senator Blaylock said we have this "right" of the present lease holder to match the highest bid and keep the lease. Down the road maybe six months or so, he claims this was a spite bid against him, was unreasonable and wants it lowered. At times this is granted by the landlord, and asked how often this happens. Mr. Hagener said the renewal is what they call the preference right which means that at renewal the lessee has the right to meet the high bid and retain that lease. The statutes also give him the right to contest that cost if he believes it is

a spite bid for way above community standards and he can appeal that before the commissioner. He estimated 900 leases per year that come up for renewal, and in recent years we get 80 to 90 competitive bids of which 40 may be contested. They have allowed hearings on about 20 of those per year and out of those 20 they go through a standard hearing process where the Commissioner hears them and listens to their case as to why the price should be lowered. There are some cases where the bid has been lowered because of belief it was a spite bid, or perhaps something the person bidding on it did not understand, such as a large amount of noxious weeds. In general the lowering of those competitive bids over the past three or four years has been very minor.

Senator Stang asked if Mr. Hagener knew how much of this state land is located along state or federal highways, and if they expected a proliferation of billboards. Mr. Hagener said they have about a dozen bill boards now, but because of the Lady Bird Johnson Act, there is a restriction on what can now be put up along side an inter-state. He believed there is an allowance on secondary highways, but did not see a proliferation of them.

Senator Nathe said the Lady Bird Johnson Act spills over onto the primary and secondary roads also. He gave a personal account where he had been in "trouble" because he allowed a radio station to put up an ad that said "KCGM Dial 960". He said it took three years to get this settled, and pointed out that you cannot really put up anything within eyesight of a highway.

Closing by Sponsor:

Senator Hockett said he was well aware of the sensitivity of leasing on state lands. He asked members of the committee to help him on the floor on questions which would arise if the bill went that far.

HEARING ON SENATE BILL 178

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Senator Bob Brown, Senate District 2, Whitefish, said SB 178 changes four statutory deadlines. These deadlines that either can't be met because of changes in other legal requirements in the law, or are not being met in the process of setting budgets now. It also eliminates a duplication in the law that pertains to an accounting requirement that applies to both the county treasurer and the school district clerk. The said he had been asked by the Association of School Business Officials (MASBO) to carry the bill.

Proponents' Testimony:

Linda Brannon, Montana Association of School Board Officials, (MASBO), said they put this bill together to put more realistic deadlines into the law. Through the years a lot of laws have

changed, additional reporting requirements have been added, some are duplications, and they have proposed to move up four deadlines by two weeks. She said they had gone through the bill in an attempt to make sure it would not interfere with the actual setting of the levies and getting the tax notices out to the taxpayers. The deadlines affected would be the final budget meeting the school district Board of Trustees must have, from the 4th Monday of July to the 2nd Sunday in August which will give them more of their financial reports either done or close to done. The levies which were set on the 2nd Monday in August would be moved to the 4th Monday in August and the Trustee reports from school in to the OPI would move up to Sept. 1. second thing this bill does is to remove the provision of the County Treasurer having to keep track of each school district's fund by line item, by fund. The school clerks are already doing the account posting and this would take the County Treasurers out of the process.

Don Waldron, Rural Educational Association (REA), said they support the bill. He said Legislators were concerned that they could not get figures from the state because schools were so slow getting their reports in, but actually only 3% to 5% were late, and this would not put a "crimp" in those reports getting in, it is just the very late schools that are causing a problem. You cannot get figures from the County Treasurer in time to do anything in July, you are making your best guess at the time you are making your final budget and two or three weeks would make a real difference for counties to get their reports out.

Rachel Vielleux, Missoula County Schools, said even in Missoula in a county which is highly computerized, it is all the Treasurer's office can do to get final ending balances to the districts by July 15. That does not leave districts much time to make commitments on what will be in reserve and what and where they spend money. Most districts know their expenditures, they do not know the revenue figures until they get them from the Treasurer's office. She had one concern in the Local Government section Title 7-6-4407, which states the Commissioners will set levies on the 2nd Monday in August etc.

Loren Frazier, School Administrators of Montana (SAM), said they would like to go on record of support for this bill.

Cliff Roessner, Business Manager Helena Public Schools, said they support this bill. It legitimizes what they are doing now since they can't get the information from the County Treasurer in time to provide accurate balances to the Board in regard to the cash balances in each of their funds. They cannot get the information in time to meet the August 1 deadline for the Trustees report.

Opponents' Testimony:

None.

Informational Testimony:

None.

Ouestions From Committee Members and Responses:

Senator Stang asked Ms. Vielleux about Section 5 on page 8 and 9 and said section 2 and 3 that were eliminated sort of provide a check and balance on the budgets. He asked how this would be handled if those two sections are not left in. He pointed out schools should not be writing rubber checks.

Linda Brannon said the County Treasurer will still be charged with the duties of keeping track of the total fund, but by doing it by line item and off the duplicate warrant listing, those funds are already over spent by the time the County Treasurer receives them to cash.

Senator Stang said that would be taken care of in number one. He read (2) page 9, lines 5 through 8 and said if they don't have this information then how can they notify, if they don't get it on a check by check basis. Ms. Brannon said this is a duplicate effort because the school district is also keeping track of this.

Senator Stang said in their school district there has been numerous times when the County Treasurer has caught errors by the school district before any of the other information has been transferred on. He believed this check and balance was needed in case the school district does make an error. Ms. Brannon said the County Treasurer still has to keep track of the funds, but they are not the one that has to notify the school district. The school district has to take that responsibility on themselves.

Senator Nathe asked someone from OPI to take him through the time frame that is currently in place and how they hoped the situation would change.

Kathy Fabiano, OPI, said the school district starts the budgeting process in January or February and by the 4th Monday in June must have a preliminary budget. The Trustee election is the first Tuesday in April and most districts, at that time, also have a voted levy. That voted levy can be delayed to a later date. They vote the levy prior to the adoption of the preliminary budget, so the district is estimating their budget at this point. The district has until the 4th Monday in July to do the finals of that budget.

Senator Nathe said, then it goes to the County Commissioners and if there is any variation in the county evaluation the County Commissioners can still adjust the mills up or down. Ms. Fabiano said she did not believe the taxable evaluation gets adjusted at that point. The final budget has to be to the County Commissioners by the 2nd Monday in August for purposes of setting

the levies, but the property value those levies are based on is determined by July 10. Senator Nathe said the County Commissioners still have the power to raise or lower those mills in August, and Ms. Fabiano said only up to the amount the voters approved. They could lower the number of mills, but could not raise those over what the voters approved. She said this bill would push everything back for the district and give the County Treasurers two more weeks to do their final trustees report which is for the prior year which tells total revenues and expenditures in the school district. The County Superintendent is pushed back two weeks from the time she gets that report until it is due in August.

Mr. Roessner said when the Board of Trustees sets the levy amount, they set the dollar amount and the approximate number of mills. The dollar amount cannot change, but the mills can, based upon what the July 10 property evaluation was assessed at.

Senator Toews asked if warrants could be issued before final approval of the budget and Ms. Fabiano said yes, they issue warrants in July and the budget at that time is not even final. She said she was not aware of anything that says they can not do so.

Senator Hertel said he was concerned about the ripple effect caused by moving everything back a couple of weeks. He asked when the notification would go to the taxpayer since it looked like it would be late. Ms. Fabiano said it will not have an impact on that date, there will still be adequate time to get it through the County Treasurer's office and get notification out. The date the notifications come out will not change. Senator Hertel said his concern is that now we are not abiding by the law 20-9-121, where the Treasurers are supposed to be getting this cash balance information back to the school officials. He said with the testimony given he realized they may not have all the information, but hoped there would not be a dragging motion by moving this back and making the whole situation worse rather than better.

Closing by Sponsor:

Senator Brown closed.

HEARING ON SENATE BILL 208

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Senator Don Bianchi, Senate District 39, Belgrade, explained SB 208 as a simple bill that had the word "anticipated" added on page 3, line 13 and on line 14 "106% of" removed. While this was a minor change, for some schools it would have a significant effect. At the present time, schools that are increasing their enrollment on an annual basis and have the opportunity to project what their enrollments are. In many instances they have more

students than they are actually getting paid for through the foundation program. The affected areas for the most part are in the Gallatin area around Bozeman, some perhaps in Helena, the Missoula area and the Flathead. Those are the areas in Montana that are increasing in population now and are affected by the existing statutes. There are also declining areas in Montana, and if you increase you do not get the increased money, but if you decrease you get the same money, and this was a matter of equal distribution. At the present time if you project growth in your school, you can submit the information to OPI and if they agree with the growth statement, as long as it is over 6%, they will pay for the growth between the 6% and your projection. He said they do not pay for that first 6% of growth, and growth schools are always fighting the battle of that 6% which is not being paid for out of the foundation fund. This bill would change that and allow the schools that are growing to be paid from the foundation program for students that end up in the school on an annual basis. He said if you do over estimate your growth, subsection 6, line 19, page 3, in existing statute, the school must pay back to the foundation program the money they received by over estimating.

Proponents' Testimony:

Jack Copps, OPI, said the Superintendent supports this bill and believes it is just good common sense. If the growth rate reaches 6% the chances are you will need more teachers etc. you have only two or three students, you can absorb that growth within your existing classrooms. He pointed out in some schools 6% could be a lot of students. The Superintendent would like to work with this committee or a subcommittee to suggest a couple of possible amendments. They would like to consider some language in the bill which would simplify the process for school districts to secure a budget amendment for unanticipated growth. amendment they would suggest is the consideration that where the bill says 6% it would read 6% or 50 students, whichever is less. In looking at percentage if a district that has 50 students, it would take three students to trigger that 6%. If you have an elementary district like Helena with 5,000 students, it takes 300 new students to trigger that 6%. He pointed out that 300 new students could be a significant impact.

Bruce Moerer, School Board Association said the SBA is in favor of this bill. He said currently we compute our ANB funding for the upcoming year based on the last half of the previous year and the first half of this year. At the time this change was made nobody was experiencing much growth. That growth rate has changed in some areas and they are experiencing extreme difficulty as a result.

Craig Brewington, Hellgate Elementary Schools, Missoula, gave the example of Target Range which had increased enrollment figures for last year which qualified them for \$85,000 more dollars because of the excess number of students they have. Of that

\$85,000, the state contributed \$7,000, and they took the balance out of their reserves. Last year the Hellgate Elementary Schools budget amendment was for \$113,000 and they took \$75,000 out of their reserves. This year it is \$135,000 and they are taking \$87,000 out of their reserve account. He said their reserves are going down to 4% and that is about where, if a casualty occurs you start issuing warrants two different times during the year. He said they expect the same number of students next year and they will have no reserves to take the money from.

Loren Frazier, SAM, said he liked the idea of amendments. He believes there is room for negotiation for the number of students.

Rachel Vielleux spoke on behalf of the rapid growth schools in Missoula, and said they support this bill. She pointed out the new students do not spread out in the classrooms, but tend to bunch up in the same classrooms that are already on the verge of being over crowded. She said she would support the amendments suggested by OPI.

Karl Roosa, Powell County Superintendent urged support of the bill. He is interested in the OPI suggested amendments. He said Avon finished in June with 39 students and in September they had 49 students. In a small rural school that is quite a jump and it turned out 9 of those new students were in kindergarten.

Opponents' Testimony:

None.

Informational Testimony:

None.

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

Senator Stang asked if there is a fiscal impact to the general fund and was told yes, we do not have the fiscal note yet, but will get it.

Senator Blaylock asked for an estimate, if this bill were in effect now, how much the cost would have been this year. Mr. Copps said it would be difficult to offer a guess. This past year, the foundation cost has increased by \$1 million because of increased enrollments. If you drop this threshold to cover the first 6%, he said he could not even enter a guess.

Ms. Fabiano said they do not have the fiscal note as yet, but they are working on it. Mr. Copps said many of the schools that have 7% or 8% increase do not even make application for the funds because the 1% or 2% they would receive does not amount to that much for them.

Senator Nathe asked why we have legislation that penalizes you on the way up but not on the way down. He asked why we don't take away funds at the end of the school year if the ANB are not there. Senator Blaylock said he suspected when this went into law it was assumed those school districts had budgeted for that amount of money for that year and if they lost students, they probably still had to put out all of those expenses.

Senator Blaylock said he did not believe the committee just wanted to kill the bill, but the financial situation tells us that anything that is going to cost a fair amount of money will probably not have a healthy environment.

Closing by Sponsor:

Senator Bianchi said he would ask favorable consideration of SB 208, and would work with the committee, Ms. McClure and the OPI on the amendments. He also believed the discussion on enrollment being penalized for going up but not for going down would also be a good issue to take a look at.

Senator Waterman said there was some discussion on a district the size of Helena, you could have a significant number of new students before you get to 6%. She said they were talking the other day about highschools with less than 25, and that could be a couple students which could trigger the 6%. She asked if there wasn't some minimum figure. She felt there should be a minimum figure in the bill.

Mr. Roosa said in a school with 20 pupils, if 2 pupils come in you have a 10% increase and the school could apply for the 4% foundation money, but don't bother to do so. He did not see why a minimum should be written into this bill since down at that level they just don't bother to apply in those situations.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
January 22, 1993
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ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 2:40 p.m.

CHET BLAYLOCK, Chair

SYLVIA KINSEY, Secretary

CB/sk

ROLL CALL

SENATE COMMITTEEEDUCATI	ON	_ DATE _	1/22/93
NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSE
SENATOR BLAYLOCK, Chair	V		
SENATOR FRITZ, V.C.	✓		
SENATOR BROWN	V		
SENATOR NATHE	V		
SENATOR TOEWS		•	
SENATOR HERTEL	V		
SENATOR WILSON	/		
SENATOR WATERMAN			•
SENATOR YELLOWTAIL	/		
SENATOR STANG			10-14





MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE ALVIN ELLIS, JR.

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HOME ADDRESS: RT. 1 BOX 4840 RED LODGE, MONTANA 59068 PHONE: (406) 446-2778 SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO.

BILL NO.

COMMITTEES:

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS

January 22, 1993

TESTIMONY

TO: Members of Senate Committee on Education

At a time when local governments are struggling to survive under the restriction of I-105, it is sensible and reasonable to enable them to reduce some positions to part time, whatever they may be.

The number of rural schools in many Montana counties is decreasing and the demands of the office may vary during the calendar year. The commissioners of Carbon County are seeking authority to determine that the office of County Superintendent of Schools can function efficiently on less than a full time basis.

I whole-heartedly endorse their request.

Alvin Ellis, Jr. 72 Representative, H.D. 84

AE:vn

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BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: _S.	B118, 25188, 3B 8	100, 10	<u>2</u> 3)
Name	Representing	Bill No.	Check One Support Oppose
Mona Dutting	Carlon Co., MACO	HB53	×
Madalyn Quinlan	OPI	SB 188	
Terry Minon	FT Fil of Trackers		
Victor Hyart	SL:// G.	4653	X
Gorden Morris	MACO	4853	X
Att Lynda Brannon	MASBO	HB.178	
JACK Copps	OP I	208	X
Bruce W. Moero	BSDA	58 208	X
Jest Hagener	DSC	53 188	X
CoffRoeson	Hober Pably Schools	1-63/75	χ
Spantoderson	OPI		
Lou Waldrug	MRCA	178	X
CRAIG BREWINGTON	Hellegate Elen. Schools. Missoul	208	X
KARL ROOSA	POWER COUNTY SCHOOLS	4353	*
Locar Fram	SAM	17803	X
Proper Vieneux	MESOULA (OUNTY) SERCORS	HB 53 SB 208 SB 178	×××

VISITOR REGISTER

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY