

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 53rd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION & CULTURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: By Rep. H.S. "Sonny" Hanson, Chair, on April 5, 1993, at 3:11 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Sonny Hanson, Chair (R)
Rep. Alvin Ellis, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Ray Brandewie (R)
Rep. Fritz Daily (D)
Rep. Ervin Davis (D)
Rep. Ed Dolezal (D)
Rep. Jack Herron (R)
Rep. Bob Gervais (D)
Rep. Norm Mills (R)
Rep. Sam Rose (R)
Rep. Dick Simpkins (R)
Rep. Wilbur Spring (R)
Rep. Norm Wallin (R)
Rep. Diana Wyatt, Vice Chair (D)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: Reps. Harrington, McCarthy, McCulloch, and Rehbein

Staff Present: Andrea Merrill, Legislative Council
Susan Lenard, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing: HJR 29
Executive Action: HJR 29

HEARING ON HJR 29

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. DOLEZAL, House District 34, Great Falls, stated HJR 29 is designed to allow for an interim study for the School for the Deaf and Blind. The rationale for this study is to see if the school is properly placed under the board of public education. He commented on the multi-purpose role of the School for the Deaf

and Blind. He suggested that since the school does have a multi-purpose role, it would perhaps fit better under a government fund or some organization other than the board of public education. The study would also look at how the students at similar schools are served in other states. **REP. DOLEZAL** mentioned the school has not been studied since 1943 when the school was put under the auspices of the Board of Public Education. It was proposed that the study be assigned to the Legislative Finance Committee. The results would be required to be reported by no later than November 1994, prior to the next legislative session. It is not the intent of the study to eliminate the school nor the administrative positions at that institution.

Proponents' Testimony:

Robert Runkel, Director of Special Education at the Office of Public Instruction (OPI), stated OPI is willing to assist in performing the study proposed by HJR 29, by accessing the resources of the federal regional resources center which serves Montana.

Wayne Buchanan, Board of Public Education, stated the Board has considered this very study for many years. He said it was not performed because it was awkward for the Board to institute a formal study. He emphasized the Board's desire to have the school continue to provide its services and is in no way looking to eliminate or restrict its functions. He stressed it is time for rigorous, formal, and systematic investigation of the proper place of the governance of the school.

Bill Davis, Principle of the School for the Deaf and Blind, stated the school is not unsatisfied with the present situation. He said although the study will focus on the question of governance, it should also look at funding issues. He expressed a hope the studies will be comprehensive and of high quality.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

REP. ROSE asked **Mr. Davis** if he believed local school boards would have the expertise to properly address the concern of schools such as the School for the Deaf and Blind. **Mr. Davis** said he did not believe it would be more difficult for them to govern as the local board considering they would likely depend somewhat upon the expertise of individuals within the school. **REP. ROSE** asked if there could possibly be a conflict with local school boards with respect to funding issues. **Mr. Davis** said the answer to the question depends upon how the legislature approaches that issue.

REP. MILLS asked the sponsor for the present impetus for the study considering it had not been performed during the past fifty years. REP. DOLEZAL said the reason, in part, for seriously considering the study at the present time is because an opportunity for it to be performed at no expense to the state has arisen.

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. DOLEZAL stated the whole issue is if the School for the Deaf and Blind is properly placed under the correct form of governance. He noted the study can be performed at no expense to the state. It was the intent of the study to get the best possible service to students attending and receiving guidance from the school.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJR 29

Motion/Vote: REP. BRANDEWIE MOVED HJR 29 DO PASS. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 3:35 p.m.



REP. H.S. "SONNY" HANSON, Chair



SUSAN LENARD, Secretary

HSH/SL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Education and Cultural Resources COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL

DATE

4/5/93

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
REP. SONNY HANSON , CHAIR	✓		
REP. ALVIN ELLIS , VICE-CHAIR	✓		
REP. DIANA WYATT , VICE-CHAIR	✓		
REP. RAY BRANDEWIE	✓		
REP. FRITZ DAILY	✓		
REP. ERVIN DAVIS	✓		
REP. ED DOLEZAL	✓		
REP. DAN HARRINGTON		✓	
REP. JACK HERRON	✓		
REP. BOB GERVAIS	✓		
REP. BEA MCCARTHY		✓	
REP. SCOTT MCCULLOCH		✓	
REP. NORM MILLS	✓		
REP. BILL REHBEIN		✓	
REP. SAM ROSE	✓		
REP. DICK SIMPKINS	✓		
REP. WILBUR SPRING	✓		
REP. NORM WALLIN	✓		

HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

April 5, 1993

Page 1 of 1

Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on Education and Cultural Resources report that House Joint Resolution 29 (first reading copy -- white) do pass.

Signed: _____
Sonny Hanson, Chair

Committee Vote:
Yes 10, No 1.

761539SC.Hpf

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VISITOR REGISTER

Education & Cultural Resources COMMITTEE

BILL NO. HJR 29

DATE 5 April 1993 SPONSOR(S) REP. GO. DOLEZAL

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

PLEASE PRINT

NAME AND ADDRESS	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Wayne Buchanan	Dir of Pub Ed.	✓	
Robert & Pamela	OPT	✓	
Bill Davis	MSDB	✓	

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED TESTIMONY WITH SECRETARY. WITNESS STATEMENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU CARE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY.