

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 55th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Call to Order: By CHAIRMAN ROYAL C. JOHNSON, on February 12, 1997, at 8:39 AM, in room 312-2 of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Royal C. Johnson, Chairman (R)
Sen. Daryl Toews, Vice-Chairman (R)
Rep. Don Holland (R)
Sen. Greg Jergeson (D)
Sen. Ken Miller (R)
Rep. Ray Peck (D)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Sandy Whitney, Legislative Fiscal Division
Bob Tallerico, Legislative Fiscal Division
Connie Jacobs, Committee Secretary

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: None
Executive Action: Community Colleges
Redistribution Plan, Office of
Public Instruction, Montana
School for the Deaf and Blind,
Educational Units, Six Mill
Levy, SJR2, and MUS Lump Sum
Funding.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE REDISTRIBUTION PLAN

Discussion regarding the I-105 levy cap and the and the Community College Redistribution Plan. **Dr. David Beyers, President of Flathead Community College**, spoke of the impact the redistribution plan would have on the Flathead College. **Mr. Jack Bircham, Director of Financial Planning**, responded to questions from the committee as well.

EXHIBIT 1

970212JE.HM1

Motion: SEN. DARYL TOEWS MOVED TO RECONSIDER THE ACTION ON THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE REDISTRIBUTION PLAN.

Vote: THE MOTION TO RECONSIDER PASSED, 4-2.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 1-21; Comments: .}

Motion: SEN. JERGESON MOVED TO APPROVE A DISTRIBUTION FORMULA OF 70/30, AS AMENDED BY SEN. TOEWS TO CAP THE MILL LEVY AT MILES AND DAWSON AT 35 MILLS.

Vote: THE MOTION FAILED, 1-5.

This action reverted the community college state funding back to the "51 percent/49 percent" distribution formula.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 22-25; Comments: .}

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON THE SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SUPERVISOR
OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Ms. Madalyn Quinlan, and Ms. Kathy Fabiano, Office of Public Instruction (OPI), stated funding requests for the position of School Transportation Safety Supervisor, followed by comments and questions by the committee.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 25-41; Comments: .}

Motion: SEN. GREG JERGESON MOVED THAT 53,000 DOLLARS FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR FOR PERSONAL SERVICES AND OPERATING EXPENSES BE APPROVED FOR THE SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY SUPERVISOR POSITION AT THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

Vote: THE MOTION FAILED, 3-3.

Motion: REP. DON HOLLAND MOVED TO APPROVE 53,000 DOLLARS FOR THE BIENNIUM, FOR A ONE-HALF (1/2) FTE POSITION OF SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY SUPERVISOR AT THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

Vote: THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 1-3; Comments: .}

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON THE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND
FACULTY SALARIES

Motion: REP. RAY PECK MOVED THAT "THE SUBCOMMITTEE (LEGISLATURE) RECOGNIZES THAT FACULTY SALARY LEVELS AT MSDB HAVE NOT BEEN COMMENSURATE WITH LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND PEER SCHOOLS, AND THAT THIS SITUATION IS, IN PART, BECAUSE THE SCHOOL HAS NOT PARTICIPATED IN THE TARGET MARKET RATIO APPROACH APPLIED TO OTHER STATE CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES. THEREFORE, IT IS THE INTENT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE (LEGISLATURE) THAT THE SCHOOL PURSUE THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS AND THE LEGISLATURE FUND IN ANY PAY PLAN BILL PASSED IN THE 1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION, SALARY INCREASES FOR MSDB FACULTY BASED ON TARGET MARKET RATIOS SIMILAR TO THOSE PROVIDED TO CLASSIFIED STATE EMPLOYEES", AS PER EXHIBIT 6 ON 2/11/97.

Discussion on the motion. Mr. Bill Sykes, MSDB, and Mr. Curtis Nichols, Office of Budget Program Planning, provided comments on the motion/pay plan. Mr. Mark Cress, Division Administrator - State Personnel Division, spoke of the state pay plan and HB13. Questions and comments from the committee followed.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 3-18; Comments: .}

Continued discussion. Mr. Sykes presented the comparative faculty pay scales between MSDB and Great Falls Public Schools, stating the average wage difference is approximately 4,000 dollars.

EXHIBIT 2 (Mr. Sykes)

Motion Withdrawn: REP. PECK withdrew his motion.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 19-31; Comments: .}

Additional discussion regarding the MSDB faculty salary and the options available to the committee to resolve the issue. Mr. Nichols stated that the pay plan (HB13) could be referred to full committee to address this issue. Mr. John Kinna, Superintendent of MSDB, responded to additional questions from the committee. Mr. Bob Tallerico, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, requested specific language should this funding be allocated.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 31-40; Comments: .}

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 1-12; Comments: .}

Motion: REP. HOLLAND MOVED THAT 73,846 DOLLARS BE APPROPRIATED TO ALLOW THE MONTANA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD FACULTY AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF PAY INCREASES, THUS NARROWING THE DISPARITY BETWEEN THE MONTANA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND AND OTHER STATE SCHOOL PAY SCALES. THIS AMOUNT IS A BIENNIAL APPROPRIATION, AND CAN BE USED ONLY FOR THE PAY INCREASES.

Vote: THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 12-15; Comments: .}

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
DISTRIBUTION TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Motion: REP. HOLLAND MOVED TO ACCEPT THE NEW PROPOSAL FOR SCHOOL FACILITY PAYMENTS (ITEM 2) ON PAGE E-16.

Vote: THE MOTION PASSED, 4-2.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 16-20; Comments: .}

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON THE
EDUCATIONAL UNITS

Motion: SEN. JERGESON MOVED THAT NEW PROPOSAL FACULTY AGREEMENTS (ITEM 1), TOTALING \$ 377,478 IN FISCAL 1998 AND \$ 555,694 IN FISCAL 1999, ON PAGE E-103 BE APPROVED.

Vote: THE MOTION FAILED, 1-5.

Motion: SEN. JERGESON MOVED THAT NEW PROPOSAL FEE WAIVER INCREASES OF \$ 194,314 IN FISCAL 1998 AND \$ 392,833 IN FISCAL 1999 (ITEM 2) ON PAGE E-103 BE APPROVED.

Discussion on the motion.

Vote: THE MOTION FAILED, 2-4.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 20-28; Comments: .}

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON THE SIX-MILL LEVY

Motion: SEN. JERGESON MOVED TO REPLACE THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM 300,000 DOLLAR EXECUTIVE BUDGET SHORTFALL FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR WITH GENERAL FUND.

Vote: THE MOTION FAILED, 1-5.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 28-31; Comments: .}

SEN. JERGESON presented SJR2 with senate changes. He added that additional changes by this committee would be entertained.

EXHIBIT 3 (SEN. JERGESON)

Continued discussion regarding SJR2, its implications for the University System, and the possibility of misinterpretations for implied allocation of funding through the words "expansion", "increase" or "improve". **Commissioner Dick Crofts** responded to questions from the committee, and stated that he had no misperceptions about allocation of any funds with the language contained in SJR2.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 32-42; Comments: .}

Continued discussion and questions from the committee.

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 1-7; Comments: .}

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJR2

Motion: SEN. JERGESON MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMEND SJR2 BE REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE FULL APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

Vote: THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 7-11; Comments: .}

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON THE LUMP SUM FUNDING OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Ms. Sandy Whitney, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, mentioned that the committee had no action whether or not to lump sum fund the University System, Educational Units, the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education and the Agencies.

Motion: SEN. DARYL TOEWS MOVED THAT THE MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM, THE EDUCATIONAL UNITS AND THE COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE BE FUNDED WITH A LUMP SUM. AGENCIES WERE NOT TO BE INCLUDED WITHIN THE LUMP SUM FUNDING.

Discussion on the motion.

SEN. TOEWS stated his reason to leave agencies outside of the lump sum funding was to prevent infighting between the agencies. **Commissioner Crofts** stated that the agencies' variation of vacancy savings and the fact that they are outside of the lump sum funding, makes them different from the faculty vacancy savings within the Educational Units. **Mr. Crofts** stated that the agencies do have interests which differ from the University System. Discussion about the inclusion or exclusion of Community Colleges within the lump sum funding.

AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION: SEN. TOEWS AMENDED HIS ORIGINAL MOTION TO KEEP COMMUNITY COLLEGES OUTSIDE OF THE LUMP SUM FUNDING.

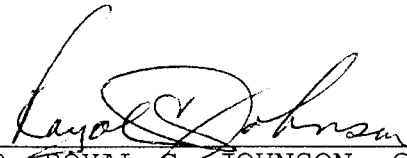
Vote : THE MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED, 5-1.

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 12-27; Comments: .}


Commissioner Crofts clarified that there are five agency lumps/appropriations which are separate and distinct. CHAIRMAN JOHNSON stated that this was true, and the ability existed to move money around within each of those lumps.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: This meeting was adjourned at 11:26 am.



REP. ROYAL C. JOHNSON, Chairman



CONNIE JACOBS, Secretary

RCJ/cj

Note: This meeting was recorded on two (2) 90 minute tapes.