

1 *Senate* BILL NO. *96*  
 2 INTRODUCED BY *Romney Galt Dennis Petrone*  
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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION  
 5 75-6806, R.C.M. 1947, TO REQUIRE THE TRUSTEES OF A SCHOOL  
 6 DISTRICT TO PUBLISH THE MINUTES OF THEIR MEETINGS INCLUDING  
 7 SALARIES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES."

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 9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

10 Section 1. Section 75-6806, R.C.M. 1947, is amended to  
 11 read as follows:

12 "75-6806. Duties of trustees. The trustees of each  
 13 district shall have the sole power and authority to transact  
 14 all fiscal business and execute all contracts in the name of  
 15 such district. No person, other than the trustees, acting as  
 16 a governing board, shall have the authority to expend moneys  
 17 of the district. In conducting the fiscal business of the  
 18 district, the trustees shall:

19 (1) cause the keeping of an accurate, detailed  
 20 accounting of all receipts and expenditures of school moneys  
 21 for each fund maintained by the district in accordance with  
 22 rules and regulations prescribed by the superintendent of  
 23 public instruction. The record of such accounting shall be  
 24 open to public inspection at any meeting of the trustees;

25 (2) authorize all expenditures of district moneys, and

1 cause warrants to be issued for the payment of lawful  
 2 obligations;

3 (3) have the authority to issue warrants on any  
 4 budgeted fund in anticipation of budgeted revenues, except  
 5 that such expenditures shall not exceed the amount budgeted  
 6 for such fund;

7 (4) invest any moneys of the district in accordance  
 8 with subsection (2) of section 16-2050 or subsection (8) of  
 9 section 16-2618, R. C. M. 1947, whichever is applicable,  
 10 whenever in the judgment of the trustees such investment  
 11 would be advantageous to the district;

12 (5) report annually to the county superintendent not  
 13 later than the first day of August, the financial activities  
 14 of each fund maintained by the district during the last  
 15 completed school fiscal year on the forms prescribed and  
 16 furnished by the superintendent of public instruction.  
 17 Annual fiscal reports for joint school districts shall be  
 18 submitted to the county superintendent of each county in  
 19 which part of the joint district is situated;

20 (6) whenever requested, report any other fiscal  
 21 activities to the county superintendent, superintendent of  
 22 public instruction, or board of education;

23 (7) cause the accounting records of the district to be  
 24 audited annually as required by law; and

25 (8) perform, in the manner permitted by law, such other

1 fiscal duties that are in the best interests of the  
2 district.

3 (9) cause to be published in the official legal  
4 newspaper published within the district, or if there is  
5 none, in a newspaper serving such district, a full account  
6 of the unapproved proceedings of meetings of the board,  
7 giving a detailed statement of all expenditures of money,  
8 with the names of persons to whom payment is made, and  
9 showing the service rendered or goods furnished. The clerk  
10 or secretary shall sign the minutes of all regular and  
11 special meetings of the board after they have been approved  
12 by the board. If the published minutes of the previous  
13 meeting of the board are modified, amended, or corrected by  
14 the board subsequent to publication and prior to approval by  
15 the board, such changes shall be reflected in the minutes of  
16 the meeting at which such modifications, amendments, or  
17 corrections are made. The salaries of teachers and other  
18 employees of the school district shall be published  
19 separately only once following the date of their employment.

20 The clerk or secretary of the school district shall  
21 verify and sign each legal publication submitted to the  
22 newspaper."

23 Section 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of section  
24 43-517, R.C.M. 1947, there shall be no reimbursement nor  
25 shall there be any appropriation made by this act because

1 the duties imposed on school districts by this act are such  
2 that related costs are incurred as a part of their normal  
3 operating procedures.

-End-

STATE OF MONTANA

REQUEST NO. 39-75

FISCAL NOTE

Form BD-15

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In compliance with a written request received January 20, 19 75, there is hereby submitted a Fiscal Note for Senate Bill 71 pursuant to Chapter 53, Laws of Montana, 1965 - Thirty-Ninth Legislative Assembly.

Background information used in developing this Fiscal Note is available from the Office of Budget and Program Planning, to members of the Legislature upon request.

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**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:**

An act requiring the trustees of a school district to publish the minutes of their meetings including salaries and other expenditures.

**ASSUMPTIONS:**

1. The trustees of school districts with high schools meet monthly; others meet quarterly.
2. There are 167 high school districts and 476 elementary school districts in Montana.
3. Each proposed publication will require approximately 18 column inches (legal notice type).
4. A column inch of legal notice type currently costs \$2.35.

**EFFECT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES:**

Enactment of Senate Bill 71 would result in annual expenditures of approximately \$137,000, statewide. Such expenditures would be borne by the local district levy.

Increased costs to districts meeting once a month would be an estimated \$508 per year; increased costs to districts meeting quarterly would be an estimated \$170 per year.



BUDGET DIRECTOR

Office of Budget and Program Planning

Date: January 21, 1975

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