

1 House BILL NO. 666
2 INTRODUCED BY VINCENT Bussant

3
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO REDUCE THE MAXIMUM
5 CLASS LOADS ALLOWED IN CERTAIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOMS,
6 AMENDING SECTIONS 75-5607 AND 75-7501, R.C.M. 1947."

7
8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

9 Section 1. Section 75-5607, R.C.M. 1947, is amended to
10 read as follows:

11 "75-5607. Powers and duties. The board of education
12 shall have the power and it shall be its duty to:

13 (1) effect an orderly and uniform system of teacher
14 certification and for the issuance of an emergency
15 authorization of employment by adopting the policies
16 prescribed by sections 75-6002 and 75-6011;

17 (2) consider the suspension or revocation of teacher
18 certificates, and appeals from the denial of teacher
19 certification in accordance with the provisions of section
20 75-6010;

21 (3) administer and order the distribution of state
22 equalization aid in accordance with the provisions of
23 section 75-6917;

24 (4) adopt and enforce policies to provide uniform
25 standards and regulations for the design, construction, and

1 operation of school buses in accordance with the provisions
2 of section 75-7004;

3 (5) approve or disapprove a reduction of the number of
4 hours in a district's school day in accordance with the
5 provisions of section 75-7403;

6 (6) adopt policies prescribing the conditions when
7 school may be conducted on Saturday, and the types of
8 pupil-instruction-related days and approval procedure for
9 such days in accordance with the provisions of sections
10 75-7404 and 75-7405;

11 (7) adopt standards of accreditation and establish the
12 accreditation status of every school in accordance with the
13 provisions of sections 75-7501 and 75-7502, within statutory
14 limits;

15 (8) establish the scope of conservation education in
16 the schools in accordance with the provisions of section
17 75-7509;

18 (9) approve or disapprove educational media selected
19 by the superintendent of public instruction for the
20 educational media library in accordance with the provisions
21 of section 75-7511;

22 (10) as the governing board of the state of Montana
23 for vocational education, adopt the policies prescribed by
24 and in accordance with the provisions of section 75-7702;

25 (11) consider applications for post-secondary

1 vocational-technical center designation in accordance with
2 the provisions of section 75-7707;

3 (12) for the purposes of post-secondary
4 vocational-technical centers, approve or disapprove programs
5 and budgets, direct the distribution of moneys in support of
6 such budgets, determine tuition rates and fees, enter into
7 lease agreements or real property purchases in accordance
8 with the post-secondary vocational-technical center
9 provisions of the vocational education chapter of this
10 Title;

11 (13) adopt policies for the conduct of special
12 education in accordance with the provisions of section
13 75-7802;

14 (14) supervise community college districts in
15 accordance with the provisions of sections 75-8103 and
16 75-8119;

17 (15) call an election, determine the results of the
18 election, order and implement the organization of a
19 community college district in accordance with the community
20 college districts chapter of this Title; and

21 (16) perform any other duty prescribed from time to
22 time by this Title or any other act of the legislature."

23 Section 2. Section 75-7501, R.C.M. 1947, is amended to
24 read as follows:

25 "75-7501. Standards of accreditation. Standards of

1 accreditation for all schools shall be adopted, within
2 statutory limits, by the board of education upon the
3 recommendations of the superintendent of public
4 instruction."

5 Section 3. There is a new R.C.M. section that reads as
6 follows:

7 Class load maximums. (1) The standards of accreditation
8 for elementary schools shall include a statement of class
9 load maximums.

10 (2) The maximum number of students allowed by a school
11 district to be enrolled for regular instruction in an
12 elementary school classroom, kindergarten through fourth
13 grade, shall be reduced by one pupil a year, beginning July
14 1, 1977, until the maximum class load in any such classroom
15 is 20 pupils.

-End-

STATE OF MONTANA

REQUEST NO. 447-77

FISCAL NOTE

Form BD-15

In compliance with a written request received February 8, 19 77, there is hereby submitted a Fiscal Note for House Bill 666 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.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

House Bill 666 reduces the maximum class loads allowed in grades K through 4 by one pupil until the maximum class load is 20 pupils.

ASSUMPTIONS:

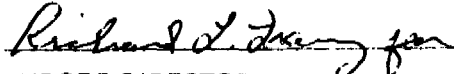
1. The distribution of students in grades K through 4 will remain constant.
2. Existing pupil-teacher ratios are at the maximum specified by accreditation standards.
3. There will be no increase in school costs and no additional construction will be required.

LOCAL FISCAL IMPACT:

Expenditures by local elementary school districts will increase \$2.77 million in FY 78 and \$5.75 million in FY 79.

LONG-RANGE IMPACT:

The fiscal burden on local elementary school districts will increase at a rate of nearly \$3 million per year through FY 85. The 664 added classrooms required by FY 85 will require added expenditures that year totaling \$23.27 million.


BUDGET DIRECTOR

Office of Budget and Program Planning

Date: 2-16-77

Approved by Committee
on Education

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