

HOUSE BILL 171

IN THE HOUSE

January 15, 1979

Introduced and referred to
Committee on Education and
Cultural Resources.

February 17, 1979

Committee recommend bill,
do not pass.

February 20, 1979

Report adopted.

HOUSE BILL NO. 171

INTRODUCED BY [Signature]

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REPEALING THE SUNSET PROVISION FOR REGIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES; AMENDING SECTION 20-7-415, MCA."

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

Section 1. Section 20-7-415, MCA, is amended to read: "20-7-415. Regional special education services -- funding -- expiration date. (1) There is established a regional special education services program to provide special education services to handicapped children who cannot efficiently be served by a program operated by an individual school district or by several cooperating school districts. Regional special education services shall be limited to:

(a) providing direct services to handicapped children who are not adequately served by a district program;

(b) initiating special services for handicapped children as a service model which may then be continued as an individual district or cooperative district program;

(c) coordinating and conducting in-service training for special education and local district personnel in the region; and

(d) assisting local districts in the region in the development and expansion of individual district or cooperative district programs.

(2) Funds for such services shall be appropriated to the superintendent of public instruction from state equalization funds and shall be available to support regional special education programs and services. Such funds may be supplemented by appropriate federal funds. ~~The authorization for regional special education services for children expires on June 30, 1980.~~

-End-

STATE OF MONTANA

REQUEST NO. 98-79

FISCAL NOTE

Form BD-15

In compliance with a written request received January 24, 1979, there is hereby submitted a Fiscal Note for House Bill 171 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 171 removes the sunset provision from the act authorizing special education regional services, enabling regional services to continue into the 1980-1981 Biennium.

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. The services now provided by regional services will be funded through the regular special education program, funded through the foundation program to district cooperatives.
2. Expenditures remain at the FY 1979 level.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Currently the regional services expend about \$1.5 million annually. This bill would extend those expenditures into the future. However, if this bill were not approved, the services now provided by regional services would be provided by cooperatives formed by school districts and funded through the regular special education program. These cooperatives would cost approximately the same as regional services do now. Therefore, the net fiscal impact of this proposed legislation is minimal.

LOCAL IMPACT:

None.

Richard L. Franzen
BUDGET DIRECTOR

Office of Budget and Program Planning

Date: 2/1/79