

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 34

INTRODUCED BY VINCENT, NEUMAN, MENAHAN,
ANDERSON, BENGTSON, KEMMIS, FAGG, EUDAILY

IN THE HOUSE

February 14, 1981	Introduced and referred to Committee on Education.
March 27, 1981	Committee recommend bill do pass as amended. Report adopted.
March 28, 1981	Bill printed and placed on members' desks.
	Motion pass consideration until the 71st legislative day.
April 1, 1981	Second reading, pass consideration until the 75th legislative day.
April 7, 1981	Second reading, do pass as amended.
April 8, 1981	Correctly engrossed.
	On motion rules suspended and bill placed on third reading this day.
	Third reading, passed. Ayes, 93; Noes, 3. Transmitted to Senate.

IN THE SENATE

April 9, 1981	Introduced and referred to Committee on Education and Cultural Resources.
April 22, 1981	Committee recommend bill be concurred in as amended. Report adopted.

April 23, 1981

Second reading, concurred in.

Third reading, concurred in
as amended. Ayes, 44; Noes, 5.

IN THE HOUSE

April 23, 1981

Returned from Senate with
amendments.

On motion rules suspended
and bill placed on second
reading this day.

Second reading, amendments
concurred in.

On motion rules suspended
and bill placed on third
reading this day.

Third reading, amendments
concurred in. Ayes, 81;
Noes, 6. Sent to enrolling.

Reported correctly enrolled.

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 34

2 INTRODUCED BY VINCENT NEWMAN Menahan Eddy
3 Anderson, Bengton Kennis Faer4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN
6 INTERIM STUDY OF THE FINANCING OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN
7 MONTANA; AND REQUIRING A REPORT OF THE FINDINGS OF THE STUDY
8 TO THE LEGISLATURE.9
10 WHEREAS, the State of Montana has an obligation to
11 provide adequate educational opportunities for its citizens;
12 and13 WHEREAS, financing of public education is presently
14 based on a complicated foundation program designed to
15 provide an equitable and equalized financing structure for
16 public education; and17 WHEREAS, the foundation program is in need of
18 adjustment or revision to reflect the rapid inflation in the
19 cost of providing education and the relative decline in tax
20 and other revenues available; and21 WHEREAS, financing of public education is becoming more
22 and more dependent on property taxation and voter approved
23 mill levies because of the deficiency in the foundation
24 program; and

25 WHEREAS, property taxpayers and voters in local

1 communities are becoming increasingly reluctant to accept
2 the burden of additional taxation.

3

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE
5 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:6 (1) That an appropriate interim committee be assigned
7 to study the financing of public education in Montana.8 (2) That the committee include in its study a
9 consideration of at least the following:

10 (a) alternatives to the foundation program;

11 (b) total revision of the foundation program;

12 (c) increasing foundation program funding so that it
13 provides a more realistic portion of the total cost of
14 operating the schools and thus relieve pressure on the voted
15 levies;16 (d) alternative sources of revenue for funding the
17 increased program;18 (e) increasing the basic county mill levies to produce
19 the county share of the increased foundation program;20 (f) statewide equalization of county mill levies
21 required to pay for the retirement fund;

22 (g) proper use of forest reserve revenue;

23 (h) creation of a self-insurance program for the
24 public schools.

25 (3) That the committee submit to the 48th Legislature

- 1 a report of its findings, together with recommendations for
- 2 legislation, if any, necessary to implement such findings.

-End-

Approved by Committee
on Education

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 34

2 INTRODUCED BY VINCENT, NEUMAN, MENAHAN,
3 ANDERSON, BENGTSON, KEMMIS, FAGG, EUDAILY

4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN
6 INTERIM STUDY OF THE FINANCING OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN
7 MONTANA; AND REQUIRING A REPORT OF THE FINDINGS OF THE STUDY
8 TO THE LEGISLATURE.

9
10 WHEREAS, the State of Montana has an obligation to
11 provide adequate educational opportunities for its citizens;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, financing of public education is presently
14 based on a complicated foundation program designed to
15 provide an equitable and equalized financing structure for
16 public education; and

17 WHEREAS, the foundation program is in need of
18 adjustment or revision to reflect the rapid inflation in the
19 cost of providing education and the relative decline in tax
20 and other revenues available; and

21 WHEREAS, LEGAL ACTION IS BEING CONSIDERED TO ADDRESS
22 AND RESOLVE THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT THE SCHOOL
23 FOUNDATION PROGRAM AS CURRENTLY FUNDED PROPERLY MEETS THE
24 MANDATE FOR THE FUNDING OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AS STIPULATED IN

1 ARTICLE X, SECTIONS 1 AND 3 OF THE MONTANA CONSTITUTION; AND

2 WHEREAS, financing of public education is becoming more
3 and more dependent on property taxation and voter approved
4 mill levies because of the deficiency in the foundation
5 program; and

6 WHEREAS, property taxpayers and voters in local
7 communities are becoming increasingly reluctant to accept
8 the burden of additional taxation.

9
10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE
11 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

12 (1) That an appropriate interim committee be assigned
13 to study the financing of public education in Montana
14 to study the committee include in its study a
15 consideration of at least the following:
16 (a) alternatives to the foundation programs
17 (b) total revision of the foundation programs
18 (c) increasing foundation program funding so that it
19 provides a more realistic portion of the total cost of
20 operating the schools and thus relieve pressure on the voter
21 to tax
22 (d) alternative sources of revenue for funding the
23 increased programs
24 (e) increasing the basic county mill levies to produce
25 the county share of the increased foundation programs

fft--statewide--equatization--of--county--milt--levies
required-to-pay-for-the-retirement-fundt
tgt--proper-use-of-forest-reserve-revenueet
tht--creation--of--a--self-insurance--program--for--the
public-schools. TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THE SCHOOL
FOUNDATION PROGRAM AS CURRENTLY STRUCTURED AND FUNDED
PROPERLY MEETS THE MANDATE FOR THE FUNDING OF PUBLIC
EDUCATION AS STIPULATED IN ARTICLE X, SECTIONS 1 AND 3 OF
THE MONTANA CONSTITUTION. THE STUDY SHALL INCLUDE
CONSIDERATION OF WAYS IN WHICH THE INCREASING PRESSURE ON
LOCAL VOTED LEVIES CAN BE RELIEVED.

437121 That the committee submit to the 48th
Legislature a report of its findings, together with
recommendations for legislation, if any, necessary to
implement such findings.

-End-

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 34

INTRODUCED BY VINCENT, NEUMAN, MENAHAN,
ANDERSON, BENGTSON, KEMMIS, FAGG, EUDAILY

5 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
6 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN
7 INTERIM THE REVENUE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TO STUDY OF THE
8 FINANCING OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN MONTANA; AND REQUIRING A
9 REPORT OF THE FINDINGS OF THE STUDY TO THE LEGISLATURE.

11 WHEREAS, the State of Montana has an obligation to
12 provide adequate educational opportunities for its citizens;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, financing of public education is presently
15 based on a complicated foundation program designed to
16 provide an equitable and equalized financing structure for
17 public education; and

18 WHEREAS,--the--foundation--program--is--in--need--of
19 adjustment--or--revision--to--reflect--the--rapid--inflation--in--the
20 cost--of--providing--education--and--the--relative--decline--in--tax
21 and--other--revenues--available--and

22 WHEREAS, LEGAL ACTION IS BEING CONSIDERED TO ADDRESS
23 AND RESOLVE THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT THE SCHOOL
24 FOUNDATION PROGRAM AS CURRENTLY FUNDED PROPERLY MEETS THE
25 MANDATE FOR THE FUNDING OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AS STIPULATED IN

ARTICLE X, SECTIONS 1 AND 3 OF THE MONTANA CONSTITUTION; AND

2 WHEREAS, financing of public education is becoming more
3 and more dependent on property taxation and voter approved
4 mill levies because of the deficiency in the foundation
5 program; and

6 WHEREAS, property taxpayers and voters in local
7 communities are becoming increasingly reluctant to accept
8 the burden of additional taxation.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE
11 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

12 (1) That an-appropriate-interim THE REVENUE OVERSIGHT
13 committee be assigned to--study--the--financing-of-public
14 education-in-Montana.

17 [fa}--alternatives-to-the-foundation-program](#)

fbf--total-revision-of-the-foundation-program

19 fcy--increasing--foundation--program-funding-so-that-it
20 provides-a-more-realistic--portion--of--the--total--cost--of
21 operating-the-schools-and-thus-relieve-pressure-on-the-voted
22 testest

23

24 increased-program

25 tet--increast

(c) Increasing the basic County mill rates to produce

1 the county share of the increased foundation program
2 f7j--statewide--equalization--of--county--mtt---levies
3 required to pay for the retirement funds
4 f9j--proper use of forest reserve revenues
5 f7j--creation--of--a--self-insurance--program--for--the
6 public schools. TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THE SCHOOL
7 FOUNDATION PROGRAM AS CURRENTLY STRUCTURED AND FUNDED
8 PROPERLY MEETS THE MANDATE FOR THE FUNDING OF PUBLIC
9 EDUCATION AS STIPULATED IN ARTICLE X, SECTIONS 1 AND 3 OF
10 THE MONTANA CONSTITUTION. THE STUDY SHALL INCLUDE
11 CONSIDERATION OF WAYS IN WHICH THE INCREASING PRESSURE ON
12 LOCAL VOTED LEVIES CAN BE RELIEVED.
13 f37{2} That the committee submit to the 48th
14 Legislature a report of its findings, together with
15 recommendations for legislation, if any, necessary to
16 implement such findings.

-End-

12 WHEREAS, the State of Montana has an obligation to
13 provide adequate educational opportunities for its citizens;
14

15 WHEREAS, financing of public education is presently
16 based on a complicated foundation program designed to
17 provide an equitable and equalized financing structure for
18 public education; and

19 WHEREAS---the---foundation---program---is---in---need---of
20 adjustment-or-revision-to-reflect-the-rapid-inflation-in-the
21 cost-of-providing-education-and-the-relative-decline-in-tax
22 and-other-revenues-available-and

23 WHEREAS, LEGAL ACTION IS BEING CONSIDERED TO ADDRESS
24 AND RESOLVE THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT THE SCHOOL
25 FOUNDATION PROGRAM AS CURRENTLY FUNDED PROPERLY MEETS THE

1 MANDATE FOR THE FUNDING OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AS STIPULATED IN
2 ARTICLE X, SECTIONS 1 AND 3 OF THE MONTANA CONSTITUTION; AND
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4 WHEREAS, financing of public education is becoming more
5 and more dependent on property taxation and voter approved
6 mill levies because of the deficiency in the foundation
7 program; and
8
9 WHEREAS, property taxpayers and voters in local
10 communities are becoming increasingly reluctant to accept
11 the burden of additional taxation.
12
13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE
14 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
15
16 (1) That an-appropriate-interim THE REVENUE OVERSIGHT
17 committee be assigned to--study--the--financing--of--public
18 education-in-Montana.
19
20 (2) That--the--committee--include--in--its--study--a
21 consideration-of-at-least-the-following:
22
23 (a) alternatives-to-the-foundation-program
24
25 (b) total-revision-of-the-foundation-program
26
27 (c) increasing-foundation-program-funding-so--that--it
28 provides--a--more--realistic--portion--of--the--total--cost--of
29 operating-the-schools--and--thus--relieve--pressure--on--the--voted
30 tax--test
31
32 (d) alternative-sources-of--revenue--for--funding--the
33 increased-program

1 fet--increasing-the-basic-county-mill-levies-to-produce
2 the-county-share-of-the-increased-foundation-program
3 fff--statewide--equatization--of--county--mill--levies
4 required-to-pay-for-the-retirement-funds
5 fgt--proper-use-of-forest-reserve-revenue
6 tht--creation--of--a--self-insurance--program--for--the
7 public--schools. TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THE SCHOOL
8 FOUNDATION PROGRAM AS CURRENTLY STRUCTURED AND FUNDED
9 PROPERLY MEETS THE MANDATE FOR THE FUNDING OF PUBLIC
10 EDUCATION AS STIPULATED IN ARTICLE X, SECTIONS 1 AND 3 OF
11 THE MONTANA CONSTITUTION. THE STUDY SHALL INCLUDE
12 CONSIDERATION OF WAYS IN WHICH THE INCREASING PRESSURE ON
13 LOCAL VOTED LEVIES CAN BE RELIEVED.
14 (2) THAT THE STUDY INCLUDE A CONSIDERATION OF THE
15 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BASIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
16 ESTABLISHED IN THE STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITATION AND THE
17 FOUNDATION PROGRAM AMOUNT.
18 f37{27}{3} That the committee submit to the 48th
19 Legislature a report of its findings, together with
20 recommendations for legislation, if any, necessary to
21 implement such findings.

-End-

April 22, 1981

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT
(Education and Cultural Resources)

That House Joint Resolution No. 34 be amended as follows:

1. Title, line 7.

Strike: "THE REVENUE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TO"

Insert: "AN INTERIM"

Following: "OF"

Insert: "OF"

2. Page 3.

Following: line 12

Insert: "(2) That the study include a consideration of the relationship between the basic educational program established in the standards for accreditation and the foundation program amount."

Renumber: subsequent subsection