

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 NEPMAN *Mendenhall Evidally*  
 3                    *Anderson, Benton Kammins Foss*

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, 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

LC 0693/01

- 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

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2                   INTRODUCED BY VINCENT, NEUMAN, MENAHAN,  
3                   ANDERSON, BENGTSO, KEMMIS, FAGG, EUDAILY  
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5                   A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF  
6                   REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN  
7                   INTERIM STUDY OF THE FINANCING OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN  
8                   MONTANA; AND REQUIRING A REPORT OF THE FINDINGS OF THE STUDY  
9                   TO THE LEGISLATURE.  
10  
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

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                  ~~(2) That the committee include in its study a~~  
15                  ~~consideration of at least the following:~~  
16                  ~~(a) alternatives to the foundation program;~~  
17                  ~~(b) total revision of the foundation program;~~  
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 voted~~  
21                  ~~levies;~~  
22                  ~~(d) alternative sources of revenue for funding the~~  
23                  ~~increased program;~~  
24                  ~~(e) increasing the basic county mill levies to produce~~  
25                  ~~the county share of the increased foundation program;~~

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~~(f) -- statewide equalization of county mill levies  
required to pay for the retirement fund~~

~~(g) -- proper use of forest reserve revenue~~

~~(h) -- 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.~~

~~(3)(2) 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-~~

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 2 INTRODUCED BY VINCENT, NEUMAN, MENAHAN,  
 3 ANDERSON, BENGTON, KEMMIS, FAGG, EUDAILY  
 4

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.

10  
 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

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~~ THE REVENUE OVERSIGHT  
 13 ~~committee be assigned to study the financing of public~~  
 14 ~~education in Montana.~~

15 ~~(2) That the committee include in its study a~~  
 16 ~~consideration of at least the following:~~

- 17 ~~(a) alternatives to the foundation program;~~
- 18 ~~(b) total revision of the foundation program;~~
- 19 ~~(c) 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 ~~levies;~~

23 ~~(d) alternative sources of revenue for funding the~~  
 24 ~~increased program;~~

25 ~~(e) increasing the basic county mill levies to produce~~

1 ~~the county share of the increased foundation program~~  
2 ~~(f) statewide equalization of county mill levies~~  
3 ~~required to pay for the retirement fund~~  
4 ~~(g) proper use of forest reserve revenues~~  
5 ~~(h) 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 ~~(3)(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-



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 34

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

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

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

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

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

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

MANDATE FOR THE FUNDING OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AS STIPULATED IN ARTICLE X, SECTIONS 1 AND 3 OF THE MONTANA CONSTITUTION; AND

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

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

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

(1) That ~~an appropriate interim~~ THE REVENUE OVERSIGHT committee be assigned ~~to study the financing of public education in Montana~~

~~(2) That the committee include in its study a consideration of at least the following:~~

- ~~(a) alternatives to the foundation program~~
- ~~(b) total revision of the foundation program~~
- ~~(c) increasing foundation program funding so that it provides a more realistic portion of the total cost of operating the schools and thus relieve pressure on the voted levies~~

~~(d) alternative sources of revenue for funding the increased program~~

1        ~~fe) increasing the basic county mill levies to produce~~  
2        ~~the county share of the increased foundation program~~  
3        ~~ff) statewide equotization of county mill levies~~  
4        ~~required to pay for the retirement fund~~  
5        ~~fg) proper use of forest reserve revenues~~  
6        ~~fh) 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       ~~{3}~~ {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