HOUSE BILL 46

Introduced by Peck, et al.

7/11	Introduced	
7/11	Referred to Education & Cultura	11
Resources		
7/11	Fiscal Note Requested	
7/11	First Reading	
7/13	Hearing	
7/13	Fiscal Note Received	
7/14	Fiscal Note Printed	
	Died in Committee	

House BILL NO. 46

2 INTRODUCED BY Reck Play/ck

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A RELIABLE CASH FLOW TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS BY ALLOWING STATE ADVANCES FOR COUNTY EQUALIZATION COLLECTIONS; REQUIRING THE STATE TREASURER TO ASSESS COUNTIES AN INTEREST CHARGE OF 10 PERCENT A YEAR ON ALL MONEY NOT REMITTED TO THE STATE BY THE 20TH DAY OF EACH MONTH; AMENDING SECTIONS 15-1-504, 20-9-212, 20-9-331, 20-9-333, 20-9-334, 20-9-335, 20-9-344, 20-9-346, AND 20-9-347, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY DATE."

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STATEMENT OF INTENT

A statement of intent is required for this bill because the superintendent of public instruction is granted rulemaking authority in 20-9-347(2) to adopt rules with regard to state advances to support the county equalization collections for foundation program funding under 20-9-331 and 20-9-333. The procedure is intended to ensure that the county equalization revenue is fully realized by school districts in a timely manner, regardless of delinquent or protested taxes. It is anticipated that the county superintendent of schools will continue to calculate and report to the school districts the revenue generated in



support of elementary and high school county equalization for foundation program funding.

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

Section 1. Section 15-1-504, MCA, is amended to read:

6 *15-1-504. Settlement of county treasurer with state 7 treasurer. (1) The county treasurer, between the 1st and 20th days of each month, shall remit to the state treasurer 8 9 all money belonging to the state that was collected by the county treasurer during the preceding month. The remittance 10 11 must be accompanied by a detailed report upon a form that the state treasurer prescribes. The state treasurer may 12 13 shall assess counties an interest charge of 10% a year on 14 all money not remitted within--5--days--from by the time 15 required by this section.

(2) The remittance required by June 20 of each fiscal year under the provisions of 20-9-212(14) and subsection (1) of this section must include an estimated payment of all money belonging to the state, plus accumulated interest, that is anticipated to be collected in June."

Section 2. Section 20-9-212, MCA, is amended to read:

22 **20-9-212. Duties of county treasurer. The county 23 treasurer of each county shall:

24 (1) receive and hold all school money subject to 25 apportionment and keep a separate accounting of its LC 0063/01

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apportionment to the several districts which are entitled to a portion of the money according to the apportionments ordered by the county superintendent. A separate accounting must be maintained for each county fund supported by a countywide levy for a specific, authorized purpose, including:

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- (a) the basic county tax in support of the elementary foundation programs;
- 9 (b) the basic special tax for high schools in support 10 of the high school foundation programs;
 - (c) the county tax in support of the transportation schedules:
 - (d) the county tax in support of the elementary and high school district retirement obligations; and
 - (e) any other county tax for schools, including the community colleges, which may be authorized by law and levied by the county commissioners.
 - (2) whenever requested, notify the county superintendent and the superintendent of public instruction of the amount of county school money on deposit in each of the funds enumerated in subsection (1) of this section and the amount of any other school money subject to apportionment and apportion the county and other school money to the districts in accordance with the apportionment ordered by the county superintendent;

- (3) keep a separate accounting of the expenditures for each budgeted fund included in the final budget of each district;
- 4 (4) keep a separate accounting of the receipts,
 5 expenditures, and cash balances for each budgeted fund
 6 included in the final budget of each district and for each
 7 nonbudgeted fund established by each district;
- 8 (5) except as otherwise limited by law, pay all 9 warrants properly drawn on the county or district school 10 money and properly endorsed by their holders;
 - (6) receive all revenue collected by and for each district and deposit these receipts in the fund designated by law or by the district if no fund is designated by law. Interest and penalties on delinquent school taxes shall be credited to the same fund and district for which the original taxes were levied.
- 17 (7) send all revenue received for a joint district,
 18 part of which is situated in his county, to the county
 19 treasurer designated as the custodian of the revenue, no
 20 later than December 15 of each year and every 3 months
 21 thereafter until the end of the school fiscal year;
 - (8) at the direction of the trustees of a district, assist the district in the issuance and sale of tax and revenue anticipation notes as provided in Title 7, chapter 6, part 11;

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(9) register district warrants drawn on a budgeted fund in accordance with 7-6-2604 when there is insufficient money available in all funds of the district to make payment of the warrant. Redemption of registered warrants must be made in accordance with 7-6-2116, 7-6-2605, and 7-6-2606.

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- 6 (10) invest the money of any district as directed by the 7 trustees of the district within 3 working days of the 8 direction:
- 9 (11) each month give to the trustees of each district an 10 itemized report for each fund maintained by the district, 11 showing the paid warrants, outstanding warrants, registered 12 warrants, amounts and types of revenue received, and the 13 cash balance;
 - (12) remit promptly to the state treasurer receipts for the county tax for a vocational-technical center when levied by the board of county commissioners under the provisions of 20-16-202; and
 - (13) invest the money received from the basic county tax in support of the elementary foundation programs and the basic special tax in support of the high school foundation programs within 3 working days of receipt. The money must be invested until the working day before it is required to be distributed to school districts within the county or remitted to the state. Permissible investments are specified in 20-9-213(4). All investment income must be deposited, and

- credited proportionately, in the funds established to account for the taxes received for the purposes specified in subsections (1)(a) and (1)(b).
- (14) remit on a monthly basis to the state treasurer, in accordance with the provisions of 15-1-504, all county equalization revenue received under the provisions of 7 20-9-331 and 20-9-333 for elementary and high school district foundation program support, including all interest 9 earned and excluding any amount required for high school 10 out-of-county tuition under the provisions of 20-9-334, in 11 repayment of the state advance for county equalization 12 prescribed in 20-9-347. Any funds in excess of a state 13 advance must be used as required in 20-9-331(1)(b) and 14 20-9-333(1)(b)."
 - Section 3. Section 20-9-331, MCA, is amended to read:

*20-9-331. Basic county tax and other revenues for

- county equalization of the elementary district foundation program. (1) The county commissioners of each county shall levy an annual basic tax of 33 mills on the dollar of the taxable value of all taxable property within the county, except for property subject to a tax or fee under 23-2-517,
- 22 23-2-803, 61-3-504(2), 61-3-521, 61-3-537, and 67-3-204, for
- 23 the purposes of local and state foundation program support.
- 24 The revenue collected from this levy must be apportioned to
- the support of the elementary foundation programs of the

elementary school districts in the county and to the state special revenue fund, state equalization aid account, in the following manner:

(a) In order to determine the amount of revenue raised by this levy which is retained by the county, the sum of the estimated revenue identified in subsection (2) must be subtracted from the total of the foundation programs of all elementary districts of the county.

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- (b) If the basic levy and other revenue prescribed by this section produces more revenue than is required to finance-the-difference-determined-in-subsection-(i)(a) repay a state advance for county equalization, the county treasurer shall remit the surplus funds to the state treasurer for deposit to the state special revenue fund, state equalization aid account, immediately upon occurrence of a surplus balance and each subsequent month thereafter, with any final remittance due no later than June 20 of the fiscal year for which the levy has been set.
- (c)--if-revenue-from-the-basic-levy-prescribed--by--this section-when-combined-with-the-other-revenue-from-subsection t2)--is-insufficient-to-fully-fund-the-percentage-determined in--20-9-347(1)(b)--and--the--county--is--eligible--for---an apportionment-of-state-equalization-aid-under-the-provisions of--20-9-347(1)(c);--the--county-superintendent-shall-notify the-superintendent-of-public-instruction-of-the--deficiency;

- The--superintendent-of-public-instruction-shall-increase-the
 state-equalization-aid-payments--to--the--districts--in--the
 affected--county-to-offset-the-deficiency--A-payment-may-not
 be-made-under-this-subsection-(e)-that-allows-a-district--to
 receive---foundation---program-funding--in--excess--of--the
 foundation-program-amount-of-the-district:
- 7 (2) The revenue realized from the county's portion of
 8 the levy prescribed by this section and the revenue from the
 9 following sources must be used for the equalization of the
 10 elementary district foundation programs program entitlement
 11 of the county as prescribed in 20-9-334 20-9-335, and a
 12 separate accounting must be kept of the revenue by the
 13 county treasurer in accordance with 20-9-212(1):
- 14 (a) the portion of the federal Taylor Grazing Act funds 15 distributed to a county and designated for the common school 16 fund under the provisions of 17-3-222;
- 17 (b) the portion of the federal flood control act funds
 18 distributed to a county and designated for expenditure for
 19 the benefit of the county common schools under the
 20 provisions of 17-3-232;
- 21 (c) all money paid into the county treasury as a result
 22 of fines for violations of law, except money paid to a
 23 justice's court, and the use of which is not otherwise
 24 specified by law;
- 25 (d) any money remaining at the end of the immediately

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preceding school fiscal year in the county treasurer's accounts for the various sources of revenue established or referred to in this section;

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- (e) any federal or state money distributed to the county as payment in lieu of property taxation, including federal forest reserve funds allocated under the provisions of 17-3-213;
- 8 (f) gross proceeds taxes from coal under 15-23-703:
- 9 (g) net proceeds taxes for new production, as defined 10 in 15-23-601, and local government severance taxes on any 11 other production occurring after December 31, 1988; and
- 12 (h) anticipated revenue from property taxes and fees 13 imposed under 23-2-517, 23-2-803, 61-3-504(2), 61-3-521, 14 61-3-537, and 67-3-204."
 - Section 4. Section 20-9-333, MCA, is amended to read:
 - "20-9-333. Basic special levy and other revenues for county equalization of high school district foundation program. (1) The county commissioners of each county shall levy an annual basic special tax for high schools of 22 mills on the dollar of the taxable value of all taxable property within the county, except for property subject to a tax or fee under 23-2-517, 23-2-803, 61-3-504(2), 61-3-521, 61-3-537, and 67-3-204, for the purposes of local and state

- programs of high school districts in the county and to the state special revenue fund, state equalization aid account,
- 3 in the following manner:
- (a) In order to determine the amount of revenue raised by this levy which is retained by the county, the sum of the estimated revenue identified in subsection (2) must be subtracted from the sum of the county's high school tuition obligation and the total of the foundation programs of all high school districts of the county.
- 10 (b) If the basic levy and other revenue prescribed by 11 this section produces produce more revenue than is required 12 to finance-the-difference-determined--in--subsection--(1)(a) 13 repay a state advance for county equalization, the county 14 treasurer shall remit the surplus funds to the state 15 treasurer for deposit to the state special revenue fund, 16 state equalization aid account, immediately upon occurrence 17 of a surplus balance and each subsequent month thereafter, 18 with any final remittance due no later than June 20 of the fiscal year for which the levy has been set. 19
- 20 (c)--if-revenue-from-the-basic-levy-prescribed--by--this
 21 section-when-combined-with-the-other-revenue-from-subsection
 22 (2)--is-insufficient-to-fully-fund-the-percentage-determined
 23 in--20-9-347(i)(b)--and--the--county--is--eligible--for---an
 24 apportionment-of-state-equalization-aid-under-the-provisions
 25 of--20-9-347(i)(c);--the--county-superintendent-shall-notify

foundation program support. The revenue collected from this

levy must be apportioned to the support of the foundation

the-superintendent-of-public-instruction-of-the--deficiency:
The--superintendent-of-public-instruction-shall-increase-the
state-equalization-aid-payments--to--the--districts--in--the
affected--county-to-offset-the-deficiency:-A-payment-may-not
be-made-under-this-subsection-(c)-that-allows-a-district--to
receive---foundation---program--funding--in--excess--of--the
foundation-program-amount-of-the-district:

- (2) The revenue realized from the county's portion of the levy prescribed in this section and the revenue from the following sources must be used for the equalization of the high school district foundation programs program entitlement of the county as prescribed in 20-9-334 20-9-335, and a separate accounting must be kept of the revenue by the county treasurer in accordance with 20-9-212(1):
- (a) any money remaining at the end of the immediately preceding school fiscal year in the county treasurer's accounts for the various sources of revenue established in this section;
- (b) any federal or state money distributed to the county as payment in lieu of property taxation, including federal forest reserve funds allocated under the provisions of 17-3-213;
 - (c) gross proceeds taxes from coal under 15-23-703;
- 24 (d) net proceeds taxes for new production, as defined 25 in 15-23-601, and local government severance taxes on any

- other production occurring after December 31, 1988; and
- 2 (e) anticipated revenue from property taxes and fees
 3 imposed under 23-2-517, 23-2-803, 61-3-504(2), 61-3-521,
 4 61-3-537, and 67-3-204."
- **Section 5.** Section 20-9-334, MCA, is amended to read:
 - "20-9-334. Apportionment of county equalization moneys by---county--superintendent -- high school out-of-county tuition obligations. (1) The county superintendent shall separately--apportion--the--revenues--deposited-in-the-basic county-tax-account-and-the-revenues-deposited-in--the--basic special---tax---for---high--schools--account calculate the apportionment to the several districts of the county on--a monthly--basis. The apportionments shall be known as "county equalization moneys". Before-the
 - apportionments,—he shall direct the county treasurer to deduct from the revenues available in the basic special tax for high schools account, prior to remittance of the funds to the state treasurer under the provisions of 15-1-504 and 20-9-212, the amount required for the month to pay the county's obligation for high school out-of-county tuition."
- Section 6. Section 20-9-335, MCA, is amended to read:
- 23 **20-9-335. Formula for apportionment of county 24 equalization moneys. (1) After--making--such--deductions 25 prescribed-in-20-9-3347-the The county superintendent shall

apportion—the—remaining—amount—of—moneys calculate the apportionment of revenue available in the basic county tax account to—the—several—public—elementary—districts—of—the county and in the basic special tax for high schools account to—the—several—public—secondary—districts—of—the—county—in proportion—to—their—needs—under—the—foundation—program in accordance with the following procedure:

- (a) determine the percentage that the county equalization moneys available for the support of the elementary foundation programs—of—the—public—elementary program entitlement of the districts in the county is of the total amount—of—the elementary foundation programs program entitlement of all public—elementary districts in the county;
- (b) multiply the <u>elementary</u> foundation program <u>entitlement</u> amount of each <u>public-elementary</u> district by the percentage determined in subsection (1)(a) above to determine the portion of the county equalization moneys available to each <u>public elementary</u> school district.
- (2) The above procedure shall also be applied for public--secondary--districts the high school foundation program entitlement.
- (3) No--territory Territory situated within a county shall may not be excluded from the apportionment calculations of the county equalization moneys under this

- section solely because such the territory lies within the boundaries of a joint district. Cash balances to the credit of any district at the end of a school fiscal year shall may not be considered in the apportionment procedure prescribed in this section.
- (4) The county equalization moneys apportioned reported under these procedures shall-constitute are the first source of revenue in--calculating-the for financing of the public elementary and secondary--district high school foundation program entitlements. The--county-superintendent-shall-use the-apportionment-procedure-prescribed-in--this--section--in computing--the--estimated--revenues-for-the-financing-of-the ensuing-year's-foundation-program-for-budgeting-purposes-"
 - Section 7. Section 20-9-344, MCA, is amended to read:
- "20-9-344. Purpose of state equalization aid and duties of board of public education for distribution ----conditions of---first--payment. (1) The money available for state equalization aid must be distributed and apportioned to provide:
- (a) an annual minimum operating revenue for the elementary and high schools in each county, exclusive of revenues required for debt service and for the payment of any costs and expense incurred in connection with any adult education program, recreation program, school food services program, new buildings and grounds, and transportation; and

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(b) the Montana educational telecommunications network as provided in 20-32-101.

- (2) The board of public education shall administer and distribute the state equalization aid and state advances for county equalization in the manner and with the powers and duties provided by law. To this end, the board of public education shall:
- (a) adopt policies for regulating the distribution of state equalization aid and state advances for county equalization in accordance with the provisions of law and-in a-manner-that-provides--for--monthly--distribution--to--each district-of-its-foundation-program-amount-and-to-each-county and-district-distribution-of-its-quaranteed-tax-base-aid;
- (b) have the power to require reports from the county superintendents, budget boards, county treasurers, and trustees as it considers necessary; and
- (c) order the superintendent of public instruction to distribute the state equalization aid on the basis of each district's annual entitlement to the aid as established by the superintendent of public instruction. In ordering the distribution of state equalization aid, the board of public education may not increase or decrease the state equalization aid distribution to any district on account of any difference that may occur during the school fiscal year between budgeted and actual receipts from any other source

of school revenue.

- 2 (3) The board of public education may order the superintendent of public instruction to withhold distribution of state equalization aid or order the county superintendent of schools to withhold county equalization money from a district when the district fails to:
- 7 (a) submit reports or budgets as required by law or 8 rules adopted by the board of public education; or
 - (b) maintain accredited status.
 - (4) Prior to any proposed order by the board of public education to withhold distribution of state equalization aid or county equalization money, the district is entitled to a contested case hearing before the board of public education, as provided under the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.
 - (5) If a district or county receives more state equalization aid than it is entitled to, the county treasurer shall return the overpayment to the state upon the request of the superintendent of public instruction in the manner prescribed by the superintendent of public instruction.
 - (6) fa)-The--first Except as provided in 20-9-347(3), the foundation program payment and guaranteed tax base aid payment must be based--on--an--estimate--of--20%--of--the entitlement--of--each--district-or-county-and distributed by duly-15-of-the-school-fiscal-year:

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1	(b)Each-subsequent-monthly-payment-must-	be-at-least	-78
2	of-the-entitlement-of-each-district-or-county	according	to
3	the following schedule:		

(a) from August to May of the school fiscal year, 8% of the foundation program entitlement of each district;

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- (b) in November of the school fiscal year, one-half of the quaranteed tax base aid entitlement of each district or county;
- 9 (c) in May of the school fiscal year, the remainder of
 10 the guaranteed tax base aid entitlement of each district or
 11 county; and
 - (d) in June of the school fiscal year, the remaining foundation program entitlement of each district.
 - (7) The distribution of foundation program payments and guaranteed tax base aid provided for in subsection (6) must occur by the last working day of each month."
 - Section 8. Section 20-9-346, MCA, is amended to read:
 - "20-9-346. Duties of the superintendent of public instruction for state equalization aid distribution. The superintendent of public instruction shall administer the distribution of the state equalization aid by:
- 22 (1) establishing the annual entitlement of each 23 district and county to state equalization aid, based on the 24 data reported in the retirement and general fund budgets for 25 each district that have been duly adopted for the current

- school fiscal year and verified by the superintendent of public instruction and by applying the verified data under the provisions of the state equalization aid allocation procedure prescribed in 20-9-347;
 - (2) recommending-to-the-board-of-public--education--the entitlement---of---all---districts--and--counties--to--state equalization-aid-to-enable-the-board-of-public-education--to order-the-distribution-of-state-equalization-aid;
- f3 distributing by state warrant or electronic transfer the state equalization aid and state advances for county equalization, for each district or county entitled to the aid, to the county treasurer of the respective county or county where the district is located, in accordance with the distribution ordered by the board of public education;
- t+)(3) keeping a record in-his-office of the full and complete data concerning money available for state equalization aid, state advances for county equalization, and the entitlements for state equalization aid of the districts of the state;
- 20 t57(4) reporting to the board of public education the 21 estimated amount that will be available for state 22 equalization aid; and
- (6)(5) reporting to the legislature as provided in 5-11-210:
- 25 (a) the figures and data available in--his--office

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- concerning distributions of state equalization aid during the preceding 2 school fiscal years;
- 3 (b) the amount of state equalization aid then
 4 available:
- 5 (c) the apportionment made of the available money but
 6 not yet distributed; and
- 7 (d) the latest estimate of accruals of money available 8 for state equalization aid; and

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- (e) the amount of state advances and repayment for county equalization."
 - Section 9. Section 20-9-347, MCA, is amended to read:
 - "20-9-347. Formula for state equalization aid apportionment in support of foundation program exceptions. (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall apportion the state equalization aid available for support of the foundation program, individually for the elementary districts of a county or the high school districts of a county, in accordance with 20-9-346 and on the basis of the following procedure:
- (a) Determine the percentage that the total funds available to all counties in the state in support of the foundation program (including the state money available for state equalization aid in support of the foundation program) is of the total amount of the foundation programs of all counties.

- 1 (b) Determine the percentage that the total funds
 2 available in each county in support of the foundation
 3 programs in the county (excluding state money available for
 4 state equalization aid in support of the foundation program)
 5 is of the total amount of the foundation programs of all
 6 districts of the county.
- 7 (c) Counties in which the percentage determined in 8 subsection (1)(b) exceeds the percentage determined in 9 subsection (1)(a) are not entitled to an apportionment of the state equalization aid in support of the foundation program.
 - (d) After elimination of the counties referred to in subsection (1)(c), determine the percentage that the total money available to all remaining counties in support of the foundation program (including the state money available for state equalization aid in support of the foundation program) is of the total amount of the foundation programs of all remaining counties.
- 19 (e) Each district of each remaining county is entitled
 20 to an apportionment of the state equalization aid in support
 21 of the foundation program equal to the difference between
 22 the percentage determined in subsection (1)(d) and the
 23 percentage determined for the county in subsection (1)(b)
 24 multiplied by the foundation program amount for the
 25 district.

1 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall:

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- (a) supply the county treasurer and the county superintendent with a report of the apportionments of state equalization aid in support of the foundation program of each district of the county, and the state equalization aid in support of the foundation program must be apportioned to the districts in accordance with the report;
- (b) in the manner described in 20-9-344, provide for a state advance to each county in an amount that is no less than the amount anticipated to be raised for the basic county tax fund as provided in 20-9-331 and for the basic special tax fund as provided in 20-9-333;
- (c) adopt rules to implement the provisions of subsection (2)(b).
 - (3) (a) The superintendent of public instruction is authorized to adjust the schedule prescribed in 20-9-344 for distribution of the foundation program and guaranteed tax base aid entitlements if the distribution will cause a district to register warrants under the provisions of 20-9-212(9).
 - (b) To qualify for an adjustment in the payment schedule, a district shall demonstrate to the superintendent of public instruction, in the manner required by the office, that the payment schedule prescribed in 20-9-344 will result in insufficient money available in all funds of the district

to make payment of the district's warrants. The county 2 treasurer shall confirm the anticipated deficit. Nothing in 3 this section may be construed to authorize superintendent of public instruction to exceed a district's annual entitlement for state and county equalization aid." 6 NEW SECTION. Section 10. Effective date -- retroactive 7 applicability. [This act] is effective on passage and approval and applies retroactively, within the meaning of 9 1-2-109, to revenue collections under 20-9-331 and 20-9-333 10 for the school fiscal year beginning July 1, 1992.

-End-

STATE OF MONTANA - FISCAL NOTE

Form BD-15

In compliance with a written request, there is hereby submitted a Fiscal Note for HB0046, as introduced.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

An act providing for a reliable cash flow to school districts by allowing state advances for county equalization collections; requiring the state treasurer to assess counties an interest charge of 10 percent a year on all money not remitted to the state by the 20th day of each month; amending various sections; and providing an immediate effective date and a retroactive applicability date.

ASSUMPTIONS:

- Funds are invested at an interest rate of 5%.
- 35% of interest losses to districts are reflected as increased state GTB costs.
- All funds are invested, i.e. interest gain to the state = interest loss to school districts.
- Special OPI approved adjustments to payment schedule for hardship districts would be insignificant.
- Most counties would remit amounts due on time resulting in insignificant penalties.

(General Fund) FISCAL IMPACT:

	FY 1993
Increased general fund revenue	\$1,791,000
Increased general fund cost	627,000
Net Effect	\$1,164,000

EFFECT ON COUNTY OR OTHER LOCAL REVENUES OR EXPENDITURES:

Net loss to school districts of \$1,164,000 due to reduced interest earnings on state advances (see assumption #3).

LONG-RANGE EFFECTS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

The changes cited above would be ongoing with amounts dependent on interest rate and schedule increases/decreases.

BUDGET DIRECTOR

Office of Wudget and Program Planning

Fiscal Note for HB0046, as introduced