

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION FUNDING

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN DON RYAN**, on April 14, 2005 at 11:00
A.M., in Room 303 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Don Ryan, Chairman (D)
Rep. Bill E. Glaser (R)
Rep. Holly Raser (D)
Sen. Bob Story Jr. (R)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Eddye McClure, Legislative Branch
Lois O'Connor, Committee Secretary

Staff Excused: Jim Standaert, Legislative Branch
Connie Erickson, Legislative Branch

Please Note. These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion
are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Continued Discussion on Education Funding

Subcommittee members, staff, and stakeholders discussed the content of and technical changes to the Subcommittee's final report to be presented to the members of the 59th Legislature.

EXHIBIT(jes80a01)

The following changes were made:

- (1) strike the language "new" because it predisposes the Subcommittee's decisions on any funding formula,
 - (a) it reads: ". . the Legislature must create an education funding formula;
- (2) change the language "a basic quality system of education" to "a basic system of quality schools";
- (3) insert language referencing the collection of revenue as "fair and reasonable" and the distribution of revenue as "efficient and effective",
 - (a) it reads: ". . "and constructing a funding formula that is "fair and reasonable" and which equitably distributes the state's share of the costs in the most "efficient and effective" manner."
- (4) insert language referencing American Indian students under the **Per-Student Entitlement** section;
- (5) strike the language "home" and insert "school" under the **Transportation Entitlement** section,
 - (a) it reads: ". .To provide for the costs of transporting pupils to and from "school".;
- (6) change the language from "Native American Students" to "American Indian Students" for the purpose of compliance with federal language under Appendix A -- State Entitlements.
- (7) include the language "Students with Special Needs" and list the types of students as subcategories under Appendix A, **Adjustments for Educationally Relevant Factors Under SB 152;**
- (8) include the language "Qualified and Effective Teachers" and use remaining language as subcategories under Appendix A, **Classroom Entitlement--Adjustments for Educationally Relevant Factors under SB 152;**
- (9) remove the language "supplies/equipment for special classes like science labs, vocational classes" under Appendix A, **Classroom Entitlement--Adjustments for Educationally Relevant Factors under SB 152** and move it under Appendix A, **Accredited Program Entitlement;**
- (9) strike the language "district levy" and insert "local effort" under Appendix B -- **REVENUE;**
- (10) strike the language "Local Option" and insert "Local Enhancement" and strike "BASE Budget (Basic Education Entitlements)" and insert "Basic Education Entitlements" under Appendix B; and
- (11) strike "mandatory district levy" and insert "local effort" under Appendix C -- **REVENUE.**

An addendum of discussion participants and a list of all documents received by the Subcommittee for discussion purposes will be included in the final report.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Time Counter: 26.4}

Subcommittee members, staff, and stakeholders also discussed the issues and recommendations it could make to the new interim committee.

EXHIBIT(jes80a02)

They decided to add further discussion on the following:

- (1) how to fix the timing of school districts' elections;
- (2) will the required funding for quality schools not rely upon voted levies;
- (3) the current school cap system and the opportunity for localities to have the equality opportunity to provide enhancements beyond the basic system; and
- (4) possible ways to maximize the use of federal revenue for educational and regionalization services.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 12.7}

The Subcommittee also agreed that the completion of research needed for the request for proposal (RFP) process needed to be finalized as soon as possible and that copies of all research materials be provided to members of the new interim committee as soon as they are appointed.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:00 A.M.

SEN. DON RYAN, Chairman

LOIS O'CONNOR, Secretary

DR/lo

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([jes80aad0.PDF](#))