

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**Call to Order:** By **VICE CHAIRMAN JOAN ANDERSEN**, on March 11, 2005  
at 3:15 P.M., in Room 137 Capitol.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Joan Andersen, Vice Chairman (R)  
Rep. Gary Branae, Vice Chairman (D)  
Rep. Margaret H. Campbell (D)  
Rep. Tim Dowell (D)  
Rep. Wanda Grinde (D)  
Rep. Roger Koopman (R)  
Rep. Joe McKenney (R)  
Rep. John Ward (R)  
Rep. Jeanne Windham (D)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Kathleen Galvin-Halcro, Chairman (D)  
Rep. Edward B. Butcher (R)  
Rep. Bob Lake (R)  
Rep. Holly Raser (D)  
Rep. Scott Sales (R)  
Rep. Jon Sonju (R)  
Rep. Dan Villa (D)

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Eddy McClure, Legislative Branch  
Chris Lohse, Legislative Branch  
Linda Keim, Committee Secretary

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

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 359, 3/4/2005; SJ 12, 3/4/2005  
Executive Action: None.

HEARING ON SJ 12

**SEN. SAM KITZENBERG, SD 18, GLASGOW**

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

**SEN. SAM KITZENBERG** opened the hearing on **SJ 12**, a Resolution promoting civic education in schools. He discussed attending an informative conference dealing with civic education.

Note: VICE CHAIRMAN ANDERSEN took over as Chair.

Proponents' Testimony:

**Madalyn Quinlan, Office of Public Instruction (OPI), representing Superintendent Linda McCullough**, expressed support of SJ 12. She said a Resolution is the proper way to approach this.

*{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 8.1}*

**REP. GARY BRANAE** also attended the conference **SEN. KITZENBERG** told about. He said this will emphasize to schools that it is important to tell our school children what democracy means. He stated, "This Resolution will maintain the healthy democracy we now have, we can install some National pride in our country, and it increases political participation."

*{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 8.1 - 10.5}*

**Bob Vogel, Montana School Boards Association**, voiced their support and spoke about how important it is to address these issues. He noted how important it is to encourage student participation on school boards.

**Barbara Broberg, Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE)**, sent written testimony supporting SJ 12 and said, "Civics speaks."

[EXHIBIT](#) (edh54a01)

*{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 10.5 - 12.1}*

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

**REP. WARD** asked why this Resolution is necessary. **SEN. KITZENBERG** said the conference he attended suggested to go through these channels to awaken concerns at local levels. The conference took several surveys that made them recognize there would be problems if civics wasn't addressed more.

**{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 12.1 - 16.3}**

**REP. KOOPMAN** said he is concerned about the way government and history is taught in public schools. He said textbooks have become politically correct about bringing religious education into history and noting the role faith has had throughout history. He asked if there would be any objection to adding that as part of teaching civics. **SEN. KITZENBERG** said he shared those concerns. He stated there is a fine line between church and state in our public schools and it might create problems. He said that adoption of this Resolution would be left up to the interpretation of the Board of Education and he would leave any amendments up to the Committee. **REP. KOOPMAN** addressed the word "democracy," and suggested re-wording the Resolution.

**REP. ANDERSEN** talked about Line 26, which concerns providing learning opportunities through community service. She asked about adding an amendment that schools would be required to have two nights during the week when they could schedule extra-curricular activities so students would have the opportunity to belong to civic groups. **SEN. KITZENBERG** said he shares that concern and discussed participating in past activities along that line in his youth. He said it is hard to find the time in people's schedule.

**{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 16.3 - 30}**

**Closing by Sponsor:**

**SEN. KITZENBERG** thanked the Committee for the Hearing.

Note: VICE CHAIRMAN BRANAE returned to Chair the next bill.

**HEARING ON SB 359**

**SEN. ROBERT STORY, SD 30, PARK CITY**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

**SEN. ROBERT STORY** opened the hearing on **SB 359**, a bill to revise statutes related to school district enrollment and define aggregate hours.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

**Madalyn Quinlan, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)**, said there are certain rights and responsibilities associated with enrolling a student in school which pertain to both the student and the school. She handed out "Counting ANB for Distance Learning in Offsite Instructional Settings," and "Flowchart for Enrollment."

She explained the current calculation of Average Number Belonging (ANB). If a student is enrolled for more than two hours a day under current practice they are generating full-time funding. More than one hour a day generates half-time funding. They are proposing enrollment of at least two hours a day to generate half-time funding, and at least four hours a day to generate full-time funding. She explained they are bringing the thresholds up in terms of enrollment and how it generates funding. They have introduced the concept of quarter-time ANB, half-time, three-quarter time, and full-time ANB. They also describe the conditions under which a student would be eligible for enrollment.

**EXHIBIT (edh54a02)**

***{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 10.5}***

**Eric Burke, Montana Education Association/Montana Federation of Teachers (MEA/MFT)**, said SB 359 saves the State money because of the move to four levels of ANB. It adds another level of accountability for school districts across the state.

***{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 10.5 - 11.8}***

**Bob Vogel, Montana School Board Association, Montana Rural Electric**, noted this is a more realistic way to look at ANB and expressed support.

**Opponents' Testimony:** None.

**Informational Testimony:** None.

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

**REP. ANDERSEN** asked for further explanation of the chart, "Counting ANB for Distance Learning," (Exhibit 2). **Ms. Quinlan** clarified the information.

***{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 11.8 - 15.5}***

**REP. ANDERSEN** asked for additional information and the question was deferred to Joan Anderson, OPI. **Ms. Anderson** stated she did not have a good explanation of the line in question and said she wasn't sure it was relevant. She said the intention of the dotted lines is to show that distance learning opportunities may be provided by a school district, but they may not be able to claim ANB in that instance. She stated that this is to avoid the raiding of school districts just because it is easy to provide a distance-learning opportunity.

***{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 15.5 - 18.5}***

**REP. ANDERSEN** asked the Sponsor for further information. **SEN. STORY** said that if School A has an agreement with School B to provide a distance learning program, they can't claim the kids that are sitting in the classroom in School B as ANB students.

**Closing by Sponsor:**

**SEN. STORY** said adjustments will have to be made as this goes forward since education is offered in different ways. This is a first effort and will get them through the next several years. He asked **REP. ANDERSON** to carry the bill.

With no further business, **VICE CHAIRMAN BRANAE** adjourned the Committee meeting.

***{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 18.5 - 20}***

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 4 P.M.

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REP. KATHLEEN GALVIN-HALCRO, Chairman

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LINDA KEIM, Secretary

KG/lk

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([edh54aad0.PDF](#))**