

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN DON RYAN**, on February 2, 2007 at 3:02 P.M., in Room 303 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Don Ryan, Chairman (D)
Sen. Jerry W. Black (R)
Sen. Bob Hawks (D)
Sen. Carol C. Juneau (D)
Sen. Sam Kitzenberg (D)
Sen. Dan McGee (R)
Sen. Jim Peterson (R)
Sen. Bob Story Jr. (R)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent:

Sen. Jim Elliott (D)

Staff Present: Casey Barrs, Legislative Branch
Marigail Schreiner, Committee Secretary

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only.

They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 297, SB 335, 1/30/2007
Executive Action: None.

00:00:00 Opening comments by Chairman Ryan

HEARING ON SB 335

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:27 **SEN. BILL TASH (R), SD 36**, opened the hearing on **SB 335**, Add youth challenge to per educator and professional payments.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:04:59 Reid Lund, Director, Montana Youth Challenge Program

00:05:35 Erik Burke, MEA/MFT

00:06:16 Joe Lamson, Office of Public Instruction

00:06:42 Colonel Jeff Ireland, Montana National Guard

Opponents' Testimony:

00:08:01 None

Informational Testimony:

00:08:06 Reid Lund, Director, Montana Youth Challenge Program

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:09:02 Sen. Black to Sen. Tash

00:09:23 Sen. Elliott arrived

00:10:00 Sen. McGee to Sen. Tash

00:11:03 Sen. Elliott to Reid Lund

00:11:48 Sen. Juneau to Reid Lund

00:12:36 Sen. Juneau to Sen. Tash

Closing by Sponsor:

00:16:38 Sen. Tash

00:17:46 Sen. Kitzenberg assumed the chair so that Chairman Ryan could present SB 297.

HEARING ON SB 297

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:18:15 **SEN. DON RYAN (D), SD 10**, opened the hearing on **SB 297**, Stop loss pool for school health insurance.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:25:38 Bob Vogel, Montana School Board's Association

00:28:00 Dave Puyear, Montana Rural Education Association

00:30:53 Frank Cote, America's Health Insurance Plans and Blue Cross Blue Shield Montana

00:31:47 Richard Miltenberger, Mountain West Benefits Solutions

Opponents' Testimony:

00:35:04 Susan Witte, Vice President and General Counsel, Allegiance Benefits Plan

00:39:11 Erik Burke, MEA/MFT

Informational Testimony:

00:43:38 None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:43:49 Sen. Elliott to Susan Witte

00:45:37 Sen. Story to Susan Witte

00:47:54 Sen. McGee to Sen. Ryan

00:48:57 Sen. Story to Erik Burke

00:50:03 Sen. Hawks to Erik Burke

00:52:05 Sen. Story to Bob Vogel

00:52:38 Sen. Story to Bob Vogel

00:54:04 Sen. Story to Richard Miltenberger

00:56:00 Sen. Elliott left

00:56:46 Sen. Black to Erik Burke

00:57:53 Sen. Elliott to Sen. Ryan

00:58:52 Sen. Peterson to Sen. Ryan

01:01:04 Sen. Story to Sen. Ryan

Closing by Sponsor:

01:01:53 Sen. Ryan

01:07:22 Chairman Ryan resumed the chair.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:10 P.M.

SEN. DON RYAN, Chairman

MARIGAIL SCHREINER, Secretary

DR/ms

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([eds23aad.pdf](#))