

# Montana State Legislature

**2015 SESSION**

## **ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS**

**May include the following:**

**Business Page**

**[Signed by Chairman]**

**Roll Call**

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Tabled Bills**

**Fiscal Reports**

**Rolls Call Votes**

**Proxy Forms**

**Visitor Registrations**

**\*Any other documents, which were submitted after the committee hearing has ended and/or was submitted late [within 48 hours], regarding information in the committee hearing.**

**\*Witness Statements that were not presented as exhibits.**

**Montana Historical Society Archives**

**225 N. Roberts**

**Helena MT 59620-1201**

**2015 Legislative**

**E-Document Specialist Susie Hamilton**

**BUSINESS REPORT**

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
64th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**Date:** Friday, March 27, 2015  
**Place:** Capitol

**Time:** 3:00 PM  
**Room:** 137

**BILLS and RESOLUTIONS HEARD:**

HB 635 - Provide financial assistance for dual credit course - Rep. Tom Jacobson

HB 642 - Revise laws related to school district repayment of protested taxes - Rep. Edith (Edie) McClafferty

SB 107 - Revise K-12 school district expansion laws - Sen. Taylor Brown

**EXECUTIVE ACTION TAKEN:**

HB 635- TABLED  
HB 642- TABLED

**Comments:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
REP. Sarah Laszloffy, Chair



*The Big Sky Country*

# MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Friday, March 27, 2015

### ROLL CALL

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT/EXCUSED
REP. SARAH LASZLOFFY, CHAIR	✓	
REP. DEBRA LAMM, VICE CHAIR	✓	
REP. EDIE MCCLAFFERTY, VICE CHAIR	✓	
REP. BRYCE BENNETT	✓	
REP. JEFF ESSMANN	✓	
REP. MOFFIE FUNK	✓	
REP. EDWARD GREEF	✓	
REP. GREG HERTZ	✓	
REP. KATHY KELKER	✓	
REP. G. BRUCE MEYERS	✓	
REP. MATTHEW MONFORTON		✓
REP. JEAN PRICE	✓	
REP. DANIEL SALOMON	✓	
REP. NICHOLAS SCHWADERER	✓	
REP. SUSAN WEBBER	✓	

15 MEMBERS

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## BILL TABLED NOTICE

### HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE TABLED

**HB 635 - Provide financial assistance for dual credit course - Rep. Tom Jacobson**

**HB 642 - Revise laws related to school district repayment of protested taxes - Rep. Edith (Edie) McClafferty**

by motion, on **Friday, March 27, 2015** (PLEASE USE THIS ACTION DATE IN LAWS BILL STATUS).

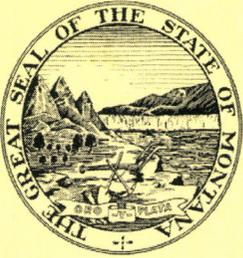
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(For the Committee)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(For the Chief Clerk of the House)  
8:30 , 3/28/15  
(Time) (Date)

March 28, 2015 (8:12am)

Nadia Zylawy, Secretary

Phone: 444-4872



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# MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## AUTHORIZED COMMITTEE PROXY

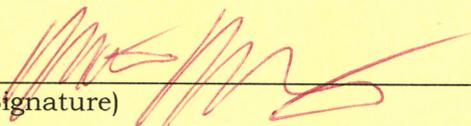
I request to be excused from the House Education

Committee because of other commitments. I desire to leave my proxy vote with:

VC - Rep Debra Lamm

Indicate Bill number and your vote Aye or No. If there are amendments, list them by name and number under the bill and indicate a separate vote for each amendment.

BILL/AMENDMENT	AYE	NO	BILL/AMENDMENT	AYE	NO
HB 635		✓			
HB 642		✓			
table 635	✓				
table 642	✓				

Rep.   
(Signature)

Date 3-27-2015





The Big Sky Country

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL VOTE

BILL NUMBER HB 642

DATE March 27, 2015

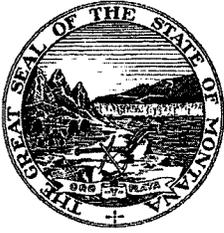
MOTION Do Pass

(motion failed)

NAME	AYE	NO	PROXY
REP. DEBRA LAMM, VICE CHAIR		✓	
REP. EDIE MCCLAFFERTY, VICE CHAIR	✓		
REP. BRYCE BENNETT	✓		
REP. JEFF ESSMANN		✓	
REP. MOFFIE FUNK	✓		
REP. EDWARD GREEF		✓	
REP. GREG HERTZ		✓	
REP. KATHY KELKER	✓		
REP. G. BRUCE MEYERS		✓	
REP. MATTHEW MONFORTON		✓	✓
REP. JEAN PRICE	✓		
REP. DANIEL SALOMON	✓		
REP. NICHOLAS SCHWADERER		✓	
REP. SUSAN WEBBER	✓		
REP. SARAH LASZLOFFY, CHAIR		✓	

7 8

15 MEMBERS



The Big Sky Country

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL VOTE

BILL NUMBER HB 635

DATE Friday, March 27, 2015

MOTION Do Pass
(motion failed)

Table with 4 columns: NAME, AYE, NO, PROXY. Lists 15 representatives and their voting status.

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15 MEMBERS

**MONTANA House of Representatives  
Visitors Register  
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**Friday, March 27, 2015**

**HB 642 - Revise laws related to school district repayment of protested taxes**

**Sponsor: Rep. Edith (Edie) McClafferty**

**PLEASE PRINT**

Name	Representing	Support	Oppose	Info
Denise Williams	MASBO	X		
Dianne Burke	Self	X		
Tim Bronk	Laurel Public School	X		
Donnie McVee	Laurel Public Schools	X		
Bob Videl	MTSBA	X		
Lee Baerbocher	MT DOR			X
Susie Hamilton	Self	X		

Please leave prepared testimony with Secretary. Witness Statement forms are available if you care to submit written testimony.



**MONTANA House of Representatives  
Visitors Register  
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**Friday, March 27, 2015**

**SB 107 - Revise K-12 school district expansion laws**

**Sponsor: Sen. Taylor Brown**

PLEASE PRINT

Name	Representing	Support	Oppose	Info
Bob Reehl	Lodgewood Steering	X		
Sue Reehl	Lodgewood resident	X		
Alex P. Cyrrette	Missoula CPG		X	
Travis E. Bukhary	EHPS	X		
SCOTT WALTER	EHPS	X		
MARK DIEHL	EHPS	X		
JT. Hingenwetter	EPS	X		
MARTIN BALUKAS	SEU	X		
Chris Horford	SEU		o	
Pat McHugh	MCPS		X	
Terry Bouck	BPS		X	
Kim Anthony	BPS		X	
Jenna Levick	BPS		X	
Patricia Hubbard	BPS		X	
Kathy Anderson	BPS		X	
Libby Gobes	Helena School District Trust		X	
Murco Ferru	MEA-MFT		X	
Dave Severson	MEA-MFT		X	
Jessica Buboltz	MCPS - MEA-MFT		X	
Debbie Hendricks	MCPS - MEA-MFT		X	
Brundan Work	MCPS - MEA-MFT		X	
Gary Stein	Voter - Missoula - teacher		✓	

Please leave prepared testimony with Secretary. Witness Statement forms are available if you care to submit written testimony.

**MONTANA House of Representatives  
Visitors Register  
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Friday, March 27, 2015

**SB 107** - Revise K-12 school district expansion laws

Sponsor: Sen. Taylor Brown

PLEASE PRINT

Name	Representing	Support	Oppose	Info
Tom McLaughlin	SB107 - Hellgate Elem	X		
Doug Reising	SB107 - Hellgate Elem	X		
Dana Schatz	SB107 Hellgate Elem	X		
Jonna Brandt	SB107 - Hellgate Elem	X		
Julia McCarthy Phaverty	SB107 Hellgate Elem	X		
John K. "Jack" Babow	SB107 Hellgate Elem	X		
Melanie Charlson	SB107 - MEA-MFT		X	
CONRAD STREIBER	SB107 Lockwood Bldg	X		
Dave Ryan	MEA	X		
WOULD SPEAK AS INFO <sup>TIME</sup> NOT NEEDED } AS PROPONENT OR } OPPONENT }				
Mary Lynn De	SB 107 MEA-MFT		X	
Ron Whitmoyer	SB107 - Superintendent East Helena Public Schools	X		
Susie Hammeton	Self	X		

Please leave prepared testimony with Secretary. Witness Statement forms are available if you care to submit written testimony.

**MONTANA House of Representatives**  
**Visitors Register**  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Friday, March 27, 2015

**SB 107** - Revise K-12 school district expansion laws

Sponsor: **Sen. Taylor Brown**

PLEASE PRINT

Name	Representing	Support	Oppose	Info
Gordon Klasna	Lockwood	X		
Chris Hanson	Lockwood	✓		
Paul J. Pugs	Public	-		
Janice Ferris	ETHN	X		
Dee Bergstrom	Lockwood	X		
Stannis	Helena		X	
Tim Sather	Lockwood	T		
Marcia Elmermeyer	East Helena	X		
Tobin Novasid	Lockwood	X		
Kane Hickey	Lockwood	X		
Lisa Thomas	Msln		X	
Trevor Leboski	msln		X	
Julie Dawkins	Billings		X	
Joe Fischer	msca		X	
Steve Theaux	HELENA		X	
Kent Kultgen	Helena		X	
Rhonda Krause	Missoula		X	
Kathleen Devlin	Missoula		X	
Carol Adkins	Missoula		X	
Tim Standacort	Helena	X		X
Bob Gray	Montana		X	

Please leave prepared testimony with Secretary. Witness Statement forms are available if you care to submit written testimony.

**ADDITIONAL  
DOCUMENTS**

March 29, 2015

Members of the House Education Committee:

My family and I have resided in the Hellgate Elementary school District since 1980. We have three children that attended and graduated from Hellgate Elementary. All three of our children graduated from Big Sky High School and all three received exemplary educations from Big Sky.

We have one son with significant issues of disability that graduated from Big Sky High School after attending the Special Education Program at Big Sky. This young man acquired full time employment, with benefits, through that program at Big Sky, and after nineteen years he is still employed with that business. On his days off he goes to school with me to school, as I am employed at Big Sky in the Special Education Program, and assists the custodial department with their duties. That department is more than grateful for his volunteer effort and wonderful work ethic. Those skills he exhibits are a direct result of the programs he attended at Big Sky and the staff involved with implementing those programs.

I have grave concerns regarding the possible implementation of another high school being built in the Hellgate Elementary District and their ability to bring appropriate necessary programs for ALL students.

Regards,

Connie Pederson

2185 Hummingbird

Missoula, MT 59808

**ADDITIONAL  
DOCUMENTS**

**From:** Ron Whitmoyer  
**Sent:** Monday, March 30, 2015 10:05 AM  
**Subject:** Additional Information on SB107 Testimony

House Education Committee Members,

Thank you for your respectful hearing of SB107 on Friday night. Surely that was a long day for all of you. We appreciate your willingness to hear this issue in spite of the hour.

A couple of points of clarification.

It was mentioned in testimony that the transfer of funds between two school districts is illegal. This is addressed on page 3 of the bill in lines 22 - 25. The districts "...shall enter into negotiations for a multidistrict agreement..." which does legally allow for the transfer of funds. This law was a coveted piece of legislation in the 2011 session in SB329. That bill specifically addressed allowing school districts to transfer money between two cooperating school districts from any budgeted fund.

It was also mentioned in testimony that the bill does not address the other budgeted funds (Transportation, Tuition, Adult Ed, Technology, and Building Reserve) aside from the General Fund and the Debt Service Bond Payments. SB107 does not specifically address the necessity to include the taxation associated with those funds because it is logical to include those funds in the Transition Levy. As I mentioned in my testimony the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) and the County Superintendent of Schools must use their normal management practices to properly direct the activities of the schools as they divide. It would be negligent to not include these funds in the Transition Levy since it is intended to calculate all of these funds. Since there is **no** formula for calculating the Transition Levy mentioned in the bill the result of being silent makes it incumbent on the County Superintendent and the OPI to correctly calculate that levy amount inclusive of **ALL** taxed funds, not just the General Fund. This is addressed on page 3 lines 1 - 4 which states "...the county superintendent shall report the amount of the transition levy **requirement**...". This portion of the bill does indeed attempt to cause no harm to the old high school district as it makes the old district whole until such a time as the old high school district begins to manage only the affairs of the high school students within their new boundaries as is their legal obligation.

Lastly, I wish to add that in a Friday, January 30, 2015 Opinion Poll reported in that issue of the Independent Record that their survey of 1,100 Helena area residents had a startling outcome to the question... "Should East Helena get to vote on whether or not to build a new high school?" That non-scientific poll showed of those respondents that 77.4 % (854 responses) said YES; while only 22.6% (249 responses) said NO. Thus the opposition of the bill would suggest that it is not the sentiments of the community members and taxpayers.

Again I wish to thank you for your patient and considerate hearing on Friday of SB107.

I am more than happy to address any other questions you may have regarding this bill. My cell phone number is 459-4488 if you would like to personally visit about any of the questions you may have.

Thank you.

Ron

Ron Whitmoyer  
Superintendent  
East Helena Public Schools  
P.O. Box 1280  
East Helena, MT 59635  
(406) 227-7700

"There is no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he doesn't mind who gets the credit"

March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015

TO: Representative Essmann and members of the House Education Committee,

FROM: Jim Standaert, E. Helena K-8 Consultant

You asked me to show you the school mill levies charged by the three existing high schools (Helena, Missoula, and Billings) that would be affected if new high schools were built nearby under SB 107. Each of the existing high schools would have smaller tax bases upon which to levy school mills, which would likely increase. **Your question was: how much would school mills in each district increase?**

Table 1 below shows the school district mills, county transportation and retirement mills and state equalization school mills paid by taxpayers in each of the three high school districts in FY 2015.

Only a small portion of the total school mills will be affected by SB 107. Suppose Lockwood K-8 votes to build a new high school. The tax base of Billings HS will fall by 9% and the number of students in Billings HS will fall by 11% (according to the fiscal note, 573 ANB out of 5,291 ANB in FY 2015).

**Table 1: Existing High School Mills FY 2015**

	Helena HS	Missoula HS	Billings HS
<b>High School District Mills</b>			
General Fund	60.0	50.7	51.5
Transportation	7.7	7.5	6.3
Bus Depreciation	-	-	-
Tuition	0.3	1.2	1.3
Adult Ed	2.1	2.1	4.0
Technology	5.0	4.1	4.7
Debt Service	5.2	4.7	2.1
Building Reserve	<u>6.8</u>	<u>2.5</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total High School District Mills</b>	<b>87.1</b>	<b>72.8</b>	<b>69.8</b>
Elementary District Mills	168.9	150.3	179.9
County Transportation and Retirement	52.5	49.1	46.1
State Education Mills	<u>95.0</u>	<u>95.0</u>	<u>95.0</u>
<b>Total School Mills</b>	<b>403.5</b>	<b>367.2</b>	<b>390.8</b>
SB 107 Impact on District Tax Base	-12%	-17%	-9%
Percent Change in High School Population due to SB 107	-18%	-18%	-11%

The transfer of territory and high school students to Lockwood, once it is complete, will not affect state school mills, nor Yellowstone county school mills, nor Billings' elementary district school mills. **The only existing mills affected by the transfer of territory to Lockwood high school will be the high school district mills in Billings HS....i.e. 69.8 mills (in red in the table).**

If the transfer of territory to Lockwood were the only thing that happened and all else stayed constant, Billings' taxpayers in the reduced HS district would face a permissive increase in school district mills of at most 6.9 mills approximately 10% of 69.8 mills.

However, after phase 2 impacts when double counting of ANB is allowed, the number of budgeted ANB in Billings high school is expected to decline by 11%. This means that the general fund maximum budget for Billings HS must decline by approximately 11%, the actual general fund budget will also decline by around 11%, and general fund tax revenues will decline by around 11%, unless Billings HS voters vote to raise general fund tax revenues close to prior levels.

For Billings HS general fund mills, the smaller tax base in Billings HS will be nearly offset by the budget reductions associated with a smaller student population. Therefore the mill impacts on general fund mills in Billings HS should be close to zero in phase 3 and beyond, as they should be in the other two high school districts.

The non-general fund accounts may experience some increases in mills due to the smaller Billings tax base associated with a new high school in Lockwood. In FY 2015, the number of non-general fund mills in Billings HS district is 16.3 (excluding debt service, because the Billings HS tax base for debt service will not be reduced under SB 107). In the short and medium term because of fixed costs, it may not be possible to reduce the budgets for these accounts. If this is true, the reduced tax base in Billings HS would result in an increase in non-general fund mills of 1.6 mills, at most.

In the long run all these accounts should adjust to the smaller student population, and these small mill increases will disappear.