

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
56th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

SELECT EDUCATION COMMITTEE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF CI-75

Call to Order: By **SEN. SPOOK STANG**, on January 8, 1999 at 4:12 P.M., in Room 402 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Spook Stang, Chairman (D)
Sen. Bill Glaser (R)
Sen. Linda Nelson (D)
Rep. Linda McCulloch (D)
Rep. Bob Story (R)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Gilda Clancy, Committee Secretary
Eddy McClure, Legislative Services Division

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed. **This hearing was not recorded.**

Committee Business Summary:

CI-75 Select Education Subcommittee

Discussion:

EXHIBIT(ics05a01) was handed out to the Subcommittee and explained by **Eddy McClure, Legislative Services Division.**

SEN. ALVIN ELLIS was present at the meeting, though not assigned to the Subcommittee. He had drafted a bill which included the implementation of CI-75 for the purposes of education. **SEN. ELLIS** had concerns about item 3, page 4, **(EXHIBIT 1)**.

Ms. McClure further explained.

CHAIRMAN STANG advised the Select Subcommittee could draft any bills. He suggested the date of elections be coordinated with the electoral vote on CI-75. This date could possibly be the first Tuesday in June.

SEN. ELLIS suggested the last Tuesday in May. He informed the Subcommittee that school boards have to draft budgets by June 1. The budgets are submitted to the superintendents of schools on July 1.

SEN. BILL GLASER suggested the possibility of two tax elections per year, one on the day of primary elections, the other general election day.

Bud Williams, Assistant Superintendent of Kalispell Schools, asked the Subcommittee to set a date as early as possible because school staff members need to know whether or not they have employment.

CHAIRMAN STANG informed the Subcommittee the dates need to be the primary and general election dates.

Ms. McClure mentioned **SEN. GLASER'S** bill has an early March date.

Tom Lockyer, East Helena School District, advised June is too late because the schools need to know their budget authority.

Phil Campbell, Montana Education Association (MEA), alleged the general election for the school districts in statute is in April.

SEN. GLASER thought they still needed to stay with only two election dates.

Jim Standaerts, Legislative Fiscal Division, asked if the Department of Revenue could back mill levies properly.

(There was no response to his answer.)

Ms. McClure thought the dates could be backed up to March.

Geralyn Driscoll, Office of Public Instruction (OPI), mentioned the legislature can set the dates, but people have contracts so the primary and general elections should be set accordingly, and early enough for contracts.

CHAIRMAN STANG asked if anyone thought the primary date should be changed.

Colleen Graham, Montana School Board Association (MSBA), answered that the schools' general election is held in April and should not have to be changed.

SEN. ELLIS alleged if CI-75 is not thrown out, we need to have two elections. These dates must coordinate with local government and the primary may have to be moved.

CHAIRMAN STANG asked if the date of the primary should be moved back.

REP. STORY did not think the primary date should be moved.

CHAIRMAN STANG voiced his preference was to leave it the first Tuesday of June.

SEN. GLASER stated local government wants it as early as possible to take care of the first year. He said if it is kept in June, local government will be in terrible need the first six months. He then asked about the second Tuesday in March.

Mr. Lockyear thought that date would be helpful to schools.

CHAIRMAN STANG mentioned this may not be drafted by March this year.

SEN. ELLIS thought each school district should have the right to make their own decision.

Phil Campbell said the dates need to be uniform.

Motion/Vote: **SEN. GLASER** moved that **THERE BE ONE PRIMARY DATE TO BE DEFINED LATER, DO PASS. Motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. McClure explained budget authority.

CHAIRMAN STANG suggested there be one vote for taxes and budget authority.

Ms. Quinlan informed the Subcommittee **REP. PECK** is carrying HB 103 which contains that budget authority is for trustee vote and the tax issue is for citizens to vote on.

REP. STORY thought there may be situations that the budget increases without a tax increase. If there is no tax increase, the budget authority would not necessarily have to be voted on.

Motion: **SEN. GLASER** moved **TO ELIMINATE THE VOTE ON BUDGET AUTHORITY, WHICH WILL BE SET BY THE SCHOOL BOARD, DO PASS.**

Discussion:

Don Waldron, Montana Rural School Association, thought they could live with that.

Vote: THE MOTION DO PASS by SEN. GLASER carried unanimously.

Ms. Driscoll asserted that equalization has to occur statewide. She wanted to know when a district does a CI-75 vote, if they vote on each category of mills separately.

SEN. GLASER stated the school districts' budgets across the state are not consistent and they should be.

SEN. ELLIS informed each district has different needs and everything should be on an equalized fund for each district.

SEN. GLASER expressed he didn't intend to let every district run their own budget.

Ms. Quinlin asked what the Subcommittee wanted to set up for ballot issues.

Mr. Waldron agreed with **SEN. ELLIS**; each district is different.

CHAIRMAN STANG alleged the school board should make those decisions.

CHAIRMAN STANG set the next meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 11, 1999 in Room 402.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:22 P.M.

SEN. SPOOK STANG, Chairman

Gilda Clancy, Secretary

MH/PO