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LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
67th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Janet Ellis
Edith (Edie) McClafferty
Daniel Salomon

HOUSE MEMBERS

David Bedey
Moffie Funk
Bruce Grubbs
Bradley Hamlett
Llew Jones

COMMITTEE STAFF

Karen Gilbert - Secretary
Kris Wilkinson - Legislative
Fiscal Analyst

MINUTES LOG

January 14, 2020
8:03 AM
422

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ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. David Bedey, Chair (R)
Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Janet Ellis (D)
Rep. Moffie Funk (D)
Rep. Bruce Grubbs (R)
Rep. Bradley Hamlett (D)

Rep. Llew Jones (R)
Sen. Daniel Salomon (R)

Members Excused:

Members Absent:

Staff Present:

Bri Nordhagen, Secretary
Kris Wilkinson, Legislative Fiscal
Analyst

[\(Attachment 1\)](#) [\(Attachment 2\)](#)

Committee Business Summary

08:04:01 Presentation of subcommittee special education data requests from December meeting. Pad McCracken, Legislative Services Division and Paul Taylor, Office of Public Instruction. ([Exhibit 1](#))

Questions from the committee

08:15:50 Rep. Grubbs asked Mr. Taylor how he estimated the A&B increase for the next biennium and what does filling the hole in Special Education do to the formula, the base and the cap. Rep. Grubbs asked how accurate the model has been. Rep. Grubbs asked if unless the voters approved the increase the cap would stay where it's currently at.

08:21:49 Sen. Ellis asked why the A&B calculation was being used versus the Special Education calculation.

08:25:05 Rep. Funk asked how overidentification would buffer the coffers.

08:27:12 Sen. Ellis asked how payment leads to over identification.

08:29:09 Rep. Hamlett asked what happens to districts that have more Special Education kids, percentage wise, than other districts and how will that be handled.

08:43:32 Rep. Bedey asked about A&B allotment, times the state A&B allotment, and that distribution per the current allowable cost payment.

Public comment

08:52:09 Representative Sue Vinton, HD 56

08:53:55 Dennis Parman, Montana Rural Education Association

08:59:59 Representative Christopher Pope, HD 65

Committee discussion and questions; direction to staff

09:03:06 Mr. McCracken, ([Exhibit 2](#))

09:03:20 Rep. Bedey asked Mr. McCracken to do a deeper research dive on the appropriation and to go forward with the bill draft process.

09:05:32 Rep. Jones supported Rep. Bedey's previous statements and suggested option three.

09:07:57 Rep. Grubbs asked if a Special Education bill was being drafted for A&B and if changes need to be added for co-ops or another bill.

09:09:38 Rep. Bedey stated obtaining a summary of the situation regarding funding for students over 19 years old and data supporting it.

09:10:44 Rep. Hamlett supports getting comparison with costs and seeing if staying in the same system is more beneficial.

09:11:23 Sen. McClafferty asked for a report on waiting time loss on students.

09:12:11 Rep. Jones asked if the committee were to shift the task between the two groups, could they pull a two to one federal match.

09:13:05 Rep. Funk stated students had to be enrolled in a school in order to get access to the funds.

09:15:14 Rep. Grubbs discussed co-ops, differences in co-ops and how to address school districts that can't go on their own.

09:23:34 Rep. Hamlett stated an increased use of drugs in the population, which created an increase in the number of students in Special Education and to potentially request an audit to see those numbers.

09:25:26 Rep. Funk asked if OPI, when they audit the schools, could flag certain ones regarding their generosity of funds.

09:30:31 Rep. Grubbs mentioned incentives maintain local control.

09:31:15 Rep. Bedey asked if the committee would support a draft that was A & B only. Rep. Bedey asked if there was a consensus amongst the committee to pursue inflation and A & B. Rep. Bedey stated seeking information on 19-year-old Special Education eligibility. Rep. Bedey stated the issue of co-ops was complex and asked Mr. Taylor to present further information at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

09:37:14