

SENATE REVENUE COMMITTEE
MARCH 23, 2005 8:30 AM STATE CAPITOL BUILDING

Members Present: Senator Ryan Deckert, Chair
Senator Rick Metsger
Senator Floyd Prozanski
Senator Charles Starr, Vice Chair

Members Excused: Senator Gary George

Witnesses Present: Sen. Charlie Ringo, District 17
Rep. Mark Hass, District 27

Staff Present: Paul Warner, Legislative Revenue Officer
Steve Meyer, Economist
Barbara Guardino, Committee Assistant

TAPE 75, SIDE A

005 Chair Deckert Calls meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

PUBLIC HEARING, SB 414

010 Steve Meyer Gives overview of SB 414 (**EXHIBIT 1**). Increases the school equalization formula weight for full-day kindergarten students from ½ to 1. Modifies the remote small elementary school weight to include kindergarten students. Cost shift is approximately \$7.6 million.

028 Sen. Charlie Ringo Testifies in favor of SB 414. See Extended Day Kindergarten: The Research (**EXHIBIT 2**); and Extended Day Kindergarten: The Benefits (**EXHIBIT 3**). Research indicates that children who don't get a good early education fall behind by third or fourth grade, and drop out of high school.

043 Sen. Ringo The question is how to pay for full-day kindergarten. Rather than require additional money, consider full-day kindergarten in the funding formula. Giving schools additional revenue from the full-day school fund would be the incentive for them to offer it. Some districts have issues of where to house full-day kindergarten students.

065 Sen. Ringo There is opposition to this bill because of the question of where the money will come from. It does thin the soup for the other grades, and it's difficult for school administrators to embrace change. But it makes a crucial difference for children.

072 Rep. Mark Hass Testifies, the research speaks for itself – 75% of children who cannot read by third grade will drop out of high school. Funding will be available through consolidating Education Service Districts. Questions Meyer about the School Finance Distribution figures. Contents data are obsolete.

107 Vice Chair C. Starr Expresses concern that children who are the most likely to need all-

		day kindergarten will be missed.
114	Sen. Ringo	Contends the opposite will occur. For children with more parental involvement, full-day kindergarten is less important.
131	Rep. Hass	Both he and Sen. Ringo have children in kindergarten. Their children have supplemental activities and don't need a full day. Most parents in Beaverton are single. Their children are the ones who need extra time. It wouldn't be all day, just 5 hours, up from 2 ½ hours. Paying for a half-day is expensive. In real dollar terms, going a whole day only raises the price 20-30%.
161	Vice Chair C. Starr	Ringo and Hass have missed the point of his question. Because kindergarten isn't compulsory, the state is missing large numbers of children who need it most.
182	Sen. Ringo	Agrees, compulsory kindergarten is a good idea.
188	Rep. Hass	Agrees, although compulsory kindergarten is a separate issue.
193	Sen. Prozanski	Fears this bill would result in children already with an edge increasing their edge. Also, wonders how to justify moving on this concept when Head Start is getting its budget cut.
210	Sen. Ringo	Head Start is a good investment, but in regard to its return for the dollar, full-day kindergarten seems to be the way to go.
221	Rep. Hass	Wealthy people send their children to private full-day kindergarten. Low income populations are being tended to. It's the middle class that is missing out.
239	Sen. Metsger	Appreciates the comments on compulsory kindergarten. There may be ways to find dollars for this program without impacting other programs.
260	Chair Deckert	Closes public hearing on SB 414. Announces Thursday's agenda, PUC recommendations. Committee will begin Thursday at 9 a.m. Adjourns meeting at 8:53 a.m.

Tape Log Submitted by,

Barbara Guardino, Committee Assistant

Exhibit Summary:

1. SB 414, Revenue Impact of Proposed Legislation, Meyer, 1 pp.
2. SB 414, Extended Day Kindergarten: The Research, Ringo/Hass, 2 pp.
3. SB 414, Extended Day Kindergarten: The Benefits, Ringo/Hass, 1 pp.
4. SB 414, School Distribution: Full Day Kindergarten Weight in 2005-06, Meyer, 6 pp.