

**SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BUDGET – 2005 SESSION
EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

TAPE LOG

**Date: May 16, 2005
Tapes: 8B**

This tape log summarizes committee proceedings. For complete content and intent, please refer to tapes.

Tape / Counter	Speaker	Comments
Members Present: Senator Devlin, chair; Senators Gordly, Nelson, Walker, Whitsett,		
Members Excused:		
TAPE 8B		
003	Chair Devlin	Calls the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Opens a Public Hearing on SB 364-A. (Exhibit 1, Senate Bill 364).
SB 364-A – RELATING TO EDUCATION TASK FORCE		
006	Larry Niswender, Deputy Legislative Fiscal Officer (LFO)	Refers to (Exhibit 2, Fiscal Analyst of Proposed Legislation and Staff Measure Summary) . Indicates that the bill would require that an 18-member task force be created to examine and make recommendations related to professional and technical education in grades 7 through 12. Discusses the LFO recommendations.
031	Chair Devlin	Asks if there is anyone in the audience that wants to testify.
034	Sen. Walker	Explains that she doesn't have her bill file. Believes that she supports the Bill, though she doesn't have her file.
041	Chair Devlin	Informs that a portion of the Bill speaks about soliciting outside contributions and whether they should be received.
045	Larry Niswender	Agrees.
047	Sen. Gordly	Comments on the funding level and asks if it is the intent to try to get the general fund level down.
050	Chair Devlin	Responds yes and then discusses a conceptual amendment.
052	Larry Niswender	Clarifies that the Bill was referred to LFO with a "hall pass" from the Senate.
059	Sen. Gordly	Questions at the policy committee level whether there was any discussion about the Dept. of Education assuming the responsibilities with the existing staff as opposed to the need for additional staff funding.
064	Sen. Walker	Responds that she can't answer that without her Bill file.
067	Larry Niswender	Responds that in their review of the staffing necessary to support it they did look at existing positions and vacant positions. Indicates that there is some overlap but more duties than what they expected to take on.
076	Sen. Gordly	Agrees to accept his response. Discusses the appointees to the task force and doesn't see the Quality Education Commission listed as a possible member of the taskforce. Wonders if that was discussed or was it a deliberate omission.
084	Chair Devlin	Believes Sen. Walker may be able to respond to the question.
087	Sen. Walker	Indicates she doesn't have the correct Bill file.
089	Chair Devlin	Clarifies the question.
091	Sen. Gordly	Believes that they would have a role when looking at the integration

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		of services now and in the future.
097	Chair Devlin	Suggests rather than amending the Bill, they could include within the budget report that they consider appointing one of the members from business and industry that is also a member of the Quality Education Commission.
105	Sen. Gordly	Agrees to accept that.
106	Chair Devlin	Closes the public hearing on SB 364 Opens a Work Session on SB 364.
SB 364A – WORK SESSION		
110	Larry Niswender	Explains the process they would recommend to amend the Bill.
118	Chair Devlin	Agrees to accept a motion.
120	Sen. Gordly	Defers to the policy committee chair.
122	Sen. Walker	Asks that she be able to look at her Bill file for a moment.
123	Chair Devlin	Updates Sen. Whitsett, who just arrived, on the progress of today's meeting.
132	Sen. Gordly	Reminds him about the membership issue.
133	Chair Devlin	Clarifies that one of the members on the Quality Education Commission also be a member on the taskforce.
138	Sen. Whitsett	Asks if there are any legislators on the taskforce.
140	Sen. Whitsett	Asks if the taskforce members will travel and lodge at their own expense or whether they would take leave without pay for the taskforce related time.
142	Larry Niswender	Refers to Exhibit #1 page 2 line 4 and indicates that they are to serve as volunteers. Indicates compensation from their employers isn't addressed in the Bill.
149	Sen. Whitsett	Indicates where he is coming from regarding his question. Wonders if there really is a fiscal affect because they aren't at their place of work and likely being paid by the Government in their position.
161	Chair Devlin	Indicates that it would depend on their individual employer whether they are compensated or not.
166	Sen. Whitsett	Comments that the private sector individuals who don't end up receiving compensation. Notes that he otherwise appreciates the Bill.
171	Sen. Walker	Informs that they had a number of people testify in support of the Bill. Notes that an amendment was made to include the Chancellor into the taskforce. Asks Mr. Niswender that he review the conceptual amendment.
190	Larry Niswender	Indicates that LFO recommends on page 3 line 14 to delete \$150,000 general fund appropriation and insert \$83,411.
204	Sen. Whitsett	Discusses having two new employees but less fiscal impact.
209	Chair Devlin	Responds that some of the items can be done with existing staff but some are beyond fiscal resources. Notes that they will be limited duration positions.
215	Sen. Walker	MOVES to approve the conceptual amendment as outlined by Larry Niswender.

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221	Chair Devlin	Vote: 3 – 1 – 1 Ayes: Senators Gordly, Walker, Chair Devlin No: Senator Whitsett Exc.: Senator Nelson Declares the motion CARRIED .
229	Chair Devlin	Agrees to accept a motion.
231	Sen. Walker	MOVES SB 364, as conceptually Amended, to the Full Special Senate Budget Committee, with a Do Pass recommendation.
236	Chair Devlin	Asks for any discussion.
239	Sen. Gordly	Appreciates the additional information as provided by Sen. Walker
249	Chair Devlin	Vote: 4 – 0 – 1 Ayes: Senators Gordly, Walker, Whitsett, Chair Devlin Exc.: Sen. Nelson Hearing no objections, declares the motion CARRIED .
254	Chair Devlin	Informs the committee of tomorrow's schedule which is the OUS budget. Indicates that they may possibly be meeting on Saturday.
277	Sen. Walker	Discusses an item she found in her Bill file.
283	Chair Devlin	Agrees to accept it as a general comment on the Bill.
<i>Senator Nelson joins the committee after completion of the voting process.</i>		
284	Sen. Walker	Discusses one girl's testimony and indicates that the Bill will allow the kids to get more vocational opportunities.
298	Sen. Whitsett	Indicates he doesn't believe he will ever be able to vote yes on a budget until it is laid on his desk before him prior to voting. Wants an opportunity to read and study the information.
306	Chair Devlin	Concurs with his comment and then elaborates about a "Christmas Tree" Bill.
324	Sen. Gordly	Affirms the comment that was made by Sen. Whitsett because it is a legitimate concern and one that they all have.
345	Chair Devlin	Asks that they start promptly tomorrow beginning at 1:00 p.m. Adjourns the meeting at 1:35 p.m.