

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

March 31, 2003 Hearing Room E
1:00 PM Tapes 55 - 56

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Rep. Vic Backlund, Chair**
 Rep. Elaine Hopson, Vice-Chair
 Rep. Brad Avakian
 Rep. Billy Dalto
 Rep. Mary Nolan
 Rep. Wayne Scott

MEMBER EXCUSED: **Rep. Pat Farr, Vice-Chair**

STAFF PRESENT: **Jim Keller, Committee Administrator**
 Jeana Harrington, Committee Assistant

MEASURES HEARD: **HB 3104 – Public Hearing**
 HB 3557 – Public Hearing

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

<u>TAPE/#</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Comments</u>
TAPE 55, A		
004	Chair Backlund	Calls meeting to order at 1:43 PM. Welcomes colleagues and audience. Opens public hearing on HB 3104.
<u>HB 3104 – PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
009	Jim Keller	Committee Administrator. Reads Staff Measure Summary (SMS) on HB 3104.
008	Rep. Max Williams	House District 35. Testifies in favor of HB 3104. States he sponsored the bill at the request of the school board in his district. Note the bill would change the mandatory requirement of transportation for schools. Believes the issue is a mandate worthy of conversation. Discusses the differing situations among districts.
040	Rep. Hopson	Understands the need for discussion in the area. Asks that if the option was left to school districts, how children who have parents unable to transport would cope.
050	Rep. Williams	Thinks management could entail a fee for the transportation component of participation in activities. Notes some districts are suspending regional activity trips as a result of budget cuts. Believes the best decision is made by school boards.
065	Rep. Hopson	Asks if he is aware of the bill in the senate that increases the rate of reimbursement in some rural districts.
071	Rep. Williams	Explains he is unfamiliar with the details of the bill
074	Rep. Hopson	Discusses the districts spending on transportation. Believes the bill came out of Senator Deckert's committee.
079	Rep. Williams	Believes the issues underscores the need for discussion of educational funding matters to districts. Reiterates local districts should assess their own transportation needs given the current budget situation. Notes transportation is one of the more

expensive educational mandates.

111 Rep. Nolan Asks if Rep. Williams is aware of any other state services where transportation is provided.

115 Rep. Williams Responds of public partnerships in his district where services are provided for seniors when they qualify for subsidized programs. Lists the American Red Cross as involved in the issue.

136 Rep. Nolan Comments.

138 Chair Backlund Clarifies the issue was brought forth by his district school board. Asks how he would assess the issue in statewide.

145 Rep. Williams Explains he has not had great response on the matter. Explains his hopes of engendering the committee's awareness into the matter.

163 Rep. Hopson Clarifies Rep. Williams sees this as something that should be on the agenda when long term budget issues are discussed

166 Rep. Williams Concurrs that is a fitful way to describe the approach to it and other transportation issues.

188 Ed Edwards Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA). Testifies in opposition of HB 3104 (**EXHIBIT A**). Discusses the issues of transportation. States OSEA supports current laws. Believes the issue is also a matter of safety. Believes the bill could make it difficult for all children to access education.

242 John Marshall Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA). Notes the time he spent last week listening to the testimony in the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education. Seems to him that all educational matters should be eligible for discussion. Believes that when decisions fall to education program cuts, transportation issues should be included as they are a mandate. Urges the committee to seriously consider HB 3104. Notes the bill allows districts to make their own considerations.

294 Rep. Avakian Asks what his estimate of the effect on transportation.

299 Marshall Doubts that transportation would be eliminated. Offers that decisions on 'walk-zones' may be adjusted. Notes the allowance

305 Rep. Avakian Believes the safety of children is an important consideration.

310 Marshall Negates. Provides there will continue to be safety requirements.

315 Rep. Avakian Clarifies the issues of safety is one of students transporting themselves to school.

325 Marshall Argues those issues should be more appropriately discussed at a local school level.

335 Rep. Hopson Disputes that rich and poor suburbs exist within the same school district and voices concern that needs may be overlooked.

342 Marshall Suggests there is a mix of students within districts. Reiterates belief that school districts should be in charge of the matter.

361 Rep. Hopson Requests if Mr. Marshall is aware of other state using public transportation in metro areas.

374 Marshall Notes bus passes are provided to some students in Portland and Eugene.

382 Rep. Dalto Comments on his own experiences with transportation as a student in New York City.

390 Chair Backlund Closes public hearing on HB 3104. Opens public hearing on HB 3557.

HB 3557 – PUBLIC HEARING
TAPE 56, A

008 Jim Green Oregon S. Testifies in favor of HB 3557 (**EXHIBIT B**). Notes he introduced the bill at the request of his members. Discusses the

		requirement of charter schools to be non-profit organizations. Speaks on tax considerations of charter schools and 501(C)(3) status. Comments on the difficulty in finding board members for the non-profit boards. Explains the changes to the bill. States he has spoken to much of the education committee, and that he knows of no objection.
045	Rep. Avakian	Clarifies the premise of the bill in terms of contraction of charter schools.
051	Green	Explains it is essentially what is in the alternative school program currently
060	Rep. Avakian	Clarifies it is a different process. Asks what other purpose the new law allow would serve.
070	Green	Affirms. Responds
078	Rep. Avakian	Clarifies.
080	Green	Responds listing the reasons behind the bill.
096	Rep. Avakian	Notes the legislature has passed laws governing schools that do not include charter. Remarks further.
105	Green	Responds.
114	Rep. Avakian	Does not believe the current charter school law creates public charter schools. Speaks to the allowances made to the schools.
127	Green	Negates. Offers the bill does not prohibit creation of charter schools.
129	Rep. Nolan	Questions the reason to charter an entire district is to achieve federal money. Comments on the purpose of the funds. Asks if Mr. Green can admit that the districts would not return for a 'bailout' to achieve state funds.
140	Green	Responds he cannot affirm as all school funding is questionable in the foreseeable future.
160	Rep. Nolan	Requests the number of students in Paisley.
170	Green	Estimates around 110 including international students. Explains the real figure may be around 65-80.
180	Rep. Nolan	Discusses the budget figures per student. Requests the ability of Paisley to come up with the funds when federal funds stop.
185	Green	Believes the Paisley School District fully understands the implication of the charter and notes the work on funding.
193	Rep. Nolan	Voices concern in the statewide system being 'piecemealed'.
200	Green	Explains the solution will not be 'piecemealed out'. Comments further on Paisley.
214	Chair Backlund	Asserts that he anticipated moving the bill to work session. Believes concerns have been raised and in view of them there will not be a work session. Closes public hearing on HB 3557. Adjourns meeting at 2:23 PM.

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A – HB 3104, Ed Edwards, 1 p

B – HB 3557, Jim Green, 2 p