

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

March 13, 2001 Hearing Room B
3:00 Tapes 46 - 47

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Charles Starr, Chair
Sen. Susan Castillo, Vice-Chair
Sen. Ryan Deckert
Sen. Bill Fisher
Sen. Avel Gordly
Sen. Tom Hartung

MEMBER EXCUSED: Sen. Ted Ferrioli

STAFF PRESENT: Jan McComb, Committee Administrator
Jennifer Simmons, Committee Assistant

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD: SB 251 - Work Session
Informational Meeting – Financial Aid Commission
SCR 6 – Public Hearing Possible Work Session
SB 596 - Public Hearing Possible Work Session

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 46, A		
002	Chair Starr	Opens meeting at 3:12 p.m. Opens work session on SB 251.
<u>WORK SESSION – SB 251</u>		
007	Greg McMurdo	Department of Education. Explains that the bill changes the time period for which State Board waivers can be granted.
021	Sen. Hartung	Asks if this changes the standards.
026	Greg McMurdo	Answers that this will not change the standards.
030	Sen. Hartung	MOTION: Moves SB 251 to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation.
032		VOTE: 5-0
		EXCUSED: 2 - Ferrioli, Fisher
	Chair Starr	Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.
		UNKNOWN will lead discussion on the floor. Closes work session on SB 251 and opens informational meeting.
<u>INFORMATIONAL MEETING – Financial Aid Commission</u>		
042	Roger Bassett	Co-Chair, Financial Aid Commission. Reads from written testimony (EXHIBIT A).
210	Faith Gablenick	Financial Aid Commission. Stresses that Oregon needs to step up and help students. Says that students in this state attend all types of institutions. Says that the system in place is not good. Urges the committee to consider partial funding. Says that this will motivate more students to attend college.
275	Lee Peltin	President, Willamette University. Says that he is pleased to be a part of the commission. Says that it is important to get students off to a good start, but it is also important to see that they finish up strongly. States that Oregon's commitment to higher

377 Sen. Deckert education is “at best, lackluster”. Says that we are well below the national average.
 Asks if the commission spoke about a merit based scholarship program.

400 Nancy Goldschmidt Associate Vice Chancellor, OUS. Answers that current requirements do require students maintain a certain grade point average.

430 Sen. Deckert Says that these numbers are alarming. Expresses a desire to allow a student to attend any college once qualified for financial aid.

TAPE 47, A

010 Goldschmidt Asks if he means that the financial aid would follow the student.

015 Sen. Deckert Answers yes.

022 Sen. Gordly Comments that the recommendations provide another example of why we need to discuss tax reform and creating new revenue strings to pay for financial aid. Says that we can do better than below average.

077 Sen. Fisher Says that the report does not say how we are doing against other states. Explains that other states contribute more to financial aid because they have higher tuition.

113 Bassett Responds that this is not just for comparison against other states. Says that Oregon rates high in tuition costs.

155 Chair Starr Closes informational meeting and opens public hearing on SCR 6.

PUBLIC HEARING – SCR 6

178 Sen. Clarno Says that too often we wait until people are gone to express appreciation for them. Relates the history of Becky Hill Johnson to the committee. Explains that both she and her family have assisted the community in almost every way possible.

260 Sandra Bishop Says that she grew up with Mrs. Johnson. Explains Johnson’s presence in the community. Stresses her incredible generosity to children and families.

295 Rep. Johnson Says that she is honored that the committee would honor her mother in this way.

302 Sen. Hartung States that Sam Johnson was one of the first people he met when he joined the legislature. Expresses strong admiration for the couple.

326 Sen. Clarno Says that Rep. Johnson was able to sit in the seat held by her father thirty five years ago.

355 Chair Starr Closes public hearing and opens work session.

WORK SESSION – SCR 6

358 Sen. Hartung **MOTION: Moves SCR 6 be sent to the floor with a BE ADOPTED recommendation.**

363 **VOTE: 6-0**
EXCUSED: 1 - Ferrioli
Chair Starr Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.
SEN. CLARNO will lead discussion on the floor. Closes work session and opens public hearing on SB 596.

PUBLIC HEARING – SB 596

384 Chair Starr Says that he was approached by several superintendents to sponsor this bill. Explains what the bill would do. Submits written testimony from constituents (**EXHIBIT B**).

442 Jim Green Addresses some of the issues within the bill that need further consideration.

TAPE 46, B

012	Sen. Castillo	Asks what the overall reaction to this concept is from school districts.
017	Green	Answers that there has been some interest from smaller school districts.
028	Sen. Deckert	Asks what the big up side to this bill would be.
031	Green	Answers that it would give flexibility to schools. Explains that statewide assessments would still be required.
049	Sen. Deckert	Asks what schools could do with this bill that they could not otherwise do.
053	Green	Answers that collective bargaining is an example. Comments that another is the ability to circumvent the twenty percent cap on becoming a charter school.
068	Chair Starr	Says that many smaller districts are suffering from low enrollment and would like to attract students to their district.
102	Sen. Hartung	Says that even some larger districts have expressed desire to become charter school districts. Stresses the importance for schools to have flexibility. States his opposition to vouchers.
189	Chair Starr	Thanks Green for his help in assisting charter schools.
198	Green	Says that current charter schools are currently able to attract students to prevent low enrollment.
214	Sen. Castillo	Expresses hope that all of these teachers would be certified in the same way that public school teachers are.
230	Green	Says that this bill would maintain the current regulations for charter schools.
241	Chair Starr	Closes public hearing on SB 596 and adjourns the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Submitted By,

Reviewed By,

Jennifer Simmons,
Committee Assistant

Jan McComb,
Committee Administrator

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EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A – written testimony, Roger Bassett, 3 pp

B – written testimony, Chair Starr, 2 pp