

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

April 12, 2001 Hearing Room B
3:00 p.m. Tapes 78 - 79

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

MEMBER EXCUSED:

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

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD: SB 255 – Public Hearing and Work Session
SB 257 – Public Hearing and Work Session
SB 594 – Public Hearing and Work Session
SB 595 – Public Hearing
SB 592 – Work Session
SB 749 – Work Session
SB 233 – 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> |
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| TAPE 78, A | | |
| 002 | Chair Starr | Opens meeting at 3:09 p.m. Opens public hearing on SB 255. |
| <u>PUBLIC HEARING – SB 255</u> | | |
| 010 | Jan McComb | Administrator. Explains the bill. |
| 017 | Greg McMurdo | Department of Education. Speaks about how this bill affects the State School Board. |
| 058 | Sen. Castillo | Asks if this is just a technical fix to the appeals process. |
| 060 | McMurdo | Answers that is correct. |
| 063 | Chair Starr | Closes public hearing and opens work session on SB 255. |
| <u>WORK SESSION – SB 255</u> | | |
| 067 | Sen. Castillo | MOTION: Moves SB 255 to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation. |
| | | VOTE: 6-0 |
| | | EXCUSED: 1 - Ferrioli |
| 071 | Chair Starr | Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED. SEN. GORDLY will lead discussion on the floor. Closes work session on SB 255 and opens a public hearing on SB 257. |
| <u>PUBLIC HEARING – SB 257</u> | | |
| 088 | McMurdo | Department of Education. Submits written material (EXHIBIT A). |
| 170 | Frank Brawner | Fair Dismissals Appeals Board. Reads from written testimony (EXHIBIT B). |

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| 286 | Sen. Ferrioli | Asks if we are in jeopardy of losing impartiality by passing this bill. |
| 324 | McMurdo | Answers that this is balanced and can be agreed to by all parties. |
| 350 | Brawner | Says that the three person panel has not changed. |
| 370 | Chair Starr | Asks if there will be savings as a result of this bill. |
| 375 | McMurdo | Answers that there will be savings of time and money. |
| 399 | Brawner | Says that the low number of appeals is due to the fact that most misunderstandings are being handled privately. |
| 412 | Sen. Gordly | Asks if there is a report that would show how each district has implemented SB 880. |
| 424 | McMurdo | Answers that there is not a report like that. |
| 430 | Chair Starr | Enters into the record written testimony from Tricia Bosak (EXHIBIT C). Closes the public hearing and opens a work session on SB 257. |

WORK SESSION – SB 257

435 Sen. Castillo

MOTION: Moves SB 257 to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation.

438

Chair Starr

VOTE: 7-0

Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED. SEN. DECKERT will lead discussion on the floor. Closes work session and opens a public hearing on SB 594.

TAPE 79, A

PUBLIC HEARING – SB 594

009 Jan McComb

Explains the bill.

016 Sen. Starr

Testifies in favor of the bill. Says that this makes schools more free to adopt textbooks that are not recommended by the Department of Education.

044 Sen. Gordly

Asks if there is an opinion from the State Board of Education.

050 Sen. Starr

Answers that he does not have that information.

075 Wilma Wells

Confederation of Oregon School Administrators. Says that she has a concern that the State Board will not be able to contract with districts.

103 McMurdo

Explains the contracting system that the schools currently use. Says that this could potentially cost districts more money.

130 Sen. Castillo

Asks for clarification as to whether districts can currently purchase other textbooks.

137 McMurdo

Answers that there are no restrictions, but schools do not do this often due to the extra costs.

150 Sen. Castillo

Asks what effect there is of recommending rather than adopting.

160 McMurdo

Answers that he is unsure if this will affect the ability to contract with publishers.

168 Sen. Hartung

Asks what are other recommended instructional materials besides books.

172 McMurdo

Answers CD-ROM, audio tapes, phonics materials are just a few of the others.

182 Chair Starr

Closes public hearing and opens a work session on SB 594.

WORK SESSION – SB 594

202 Sen. Hartung

Says that he does not want to send this bill off when there are still questions about it.

211 Sen. Gordly

Comments that she agrees with Senator Hartung. Says that it would also be helpful to know if there are potential unintended consequences.

225 Sen. Ferrioli

Says that we still have time to hear senate bills.

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| 233 | Chair Starr | Closes work session on SB 594 and opens a public hearing on SB 595. |
| <u>PUBLIC HEARING – SB 595</u> | | |
| 266 | McComb | Explains the bill. |
| 286 | Chair Starr | Speaks in favor of the bill. Says that we are failing to teach all children to read. Speaks about the benefits of using phonics as a tool for teaching students to read. |
| 440 | Velma Hartwig | Lincoln County. Reads from written testimony (EXHIBIT D) . |
| TAPE 78, B | | |
| 072 | Jim Scherzinger | Portland Public Schools. Testifies that programs like these should be selected at the local level. |
| 097 | Chair Starr | Says that we need to find funding for teachers to be trained in the teaching of phonics. |
| 116 | Sen. Ferrioli | Says that he has concerns with mandating curriculum to school districts. |
| 146 | Sen. Hartung | Says that he has been to several schools that use phonics in the classroom. |
| 176 | Sen. Gordly | Says that the kids who really need a phonics program are not getting it. |
| 195 | Sen. Deckert | Asks if the Portland School District sees this bill as a mandate. |
| 208 | Scherzinger | Answers that he is unsure. |
| 216 | Chair Starr | Says that they are placing these pilot programs in areas that already teach phonics and this would enable them to expand upon their curriculum. Closes public hearing and opens a work session on SB 592. |
| <u>WORK SESSION – SB 592</u> | | |
| 285 | McComb | Gives background on the bill and explains the amendments. |
| 343 | Chair Starr | Explains that the committee would like to work on the bill before voting on it. Closes work session on SB 592 and opens a work session on SB 749. |
| <u>WORK SESSION – SB 749</u> | | |
| 368 | McComb | Explains the bill and the amendments. |
| 412 | Jim Gardner | CTB – Macgraw Hill. Speaks about the amendments. |
| TAPE 79, B | | |
| 003 | Wayne Neuberger | Department of Education. Says that the amendments fix any problem that they had with this bill. |
| 009 | Sen. Castillo | Asks how teachers in the state feel about the amendments. |
| 014 | BethAnne Darby | Oregon Education Association. Answers that teachers oppose this bill for a variety of reasons. |
| 028 | Sen. Deckert | Asks if the amendment changes the fiscal impact. |
| 032 | McComb | Answers that they have no way of knowing this as of yet. |
| 039 | Neuberger | Says that the amendment would reduce the fiscal impact about 500,000 dollars per biennium. |
| 044 | Gardner | Says that they have tried to address the issues that the OEA has brought forward. |
| 061 | Chair Starr | Comments that this retains a large fiscal impact and should be referred to Ways and Means. |
| 078 | Sen. Castillo | Says that she has trouble with this bill because in previous testimony we have heard that we already test more than other states. Expresses confidence in Oregon’s current testing program. |
| 104 | Chair Starr | Responds that ten years into our current testing program, we rank very low in fourth graders’ ability to read. |
| 198 | Sen. Gordly | MOTION: Moves to ADOPT SB 749-2 amendments dated |

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| 149 | Chair Starr | 04/12/01. VOTE: 7-0 Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED. |
| 151 | Sen. Gordly | MOTION: Moves SB 749 to the floor with a DO PASS AS AMENDED recommendation and BE REFERRED to the committee on Ways and Means. |
| 160 | Chair Starr | VOTE: 6-1 AYE: 6 - Deckert, Ferrioli, Fisher, Gordly, Hartung, Starr NAY: 1 - Castillo The motion CARRIES. Closes work session on SB 749 and opens a public hearing on SB 233. |
| <u>PUBLIC HEARING – SB 233</u> | | |
| 181 | McComb | Explains the bill. |
| 185 | Chair Starr | Speaks about the importance of class size. Says that we will have further discussion of this issue. Closes public hearing on SB 233 and adjourns the meeting at 4:50 p.m. |

Submitted By,

Reviewed By,

Jennifer Simmons,
Committee Assistant

Jan McComb,
Committee Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

- A – written material, SB 257, Greg McMurdo, 1 pp**
- B – written testimony, SB 257, Frank Brawner, 6 pp**
- C – written testimony, SB 257, Tricia Bosak, 1 pp**
- D – written testimony, SB 595, Velma Hartwig, 1 pp**