

JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON HB 3444

June 14, 1999 Hearing Room E

12:30 p.m. Tape 1

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Ron Sunseri, Chair

Sen. Peter Courtney

Sen. Tom Hartung

Rep. Elaine Hopson

Rep. Jane Lokan

Sen. Marylin Shannon

STAFF PRESENT: Norm Fox, Administrator

Brad Daniels, Administrative Support

MEASURE HEARD: HB 3444B 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.

TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments
TAPE 1, A		
003	Chair Sunseri	Opens the meeting at 12:35 p.m. Opens the work session on HB 3444B.
<u>HB 3444B WORK SESSION</u>		
006	Fox	Introduces and explains the ñB8 amendments (EXHIBIT A). Notes that the bill has an indeterminate fiscal impact and no revenue impact.
018	Rep. Lokan	Discusses the school psychologist requirement. States that a school psychologist does not reach the level of expert training in the same way as a licensed mental

		health professional. Suggests inserting the language dealing with the school psychologist requirement in subsection B and leaving subsection C unchanged.
048	Stacy Julian	Staff Attorney. Explains the ñB8 amendments, which enable school psychologists to evaluate certain students before they are returned to the classroom setting.
058	Chair Sunseri	Asks about the effect of the amendments on "licensed health professional" on line 6.
060	Hunt	Replies that there would be no effect. Adds that the ñB8 amendments are different than Rep. Lokan's suggestion.
064	Chair Sunseri	Asks if the wording could be included in both places.
065	Rep. Hopson	Asks if there was a concern that school psychologists are not licensed mental health professionals.
068	Rep. Lokan	Indicates that, according to Nan Heim, a licensed school psychologist may be a licensed mental health professional, but also may be simply a licensed teacher with additional training in psychology. Explains that her intention was to give the child an opportunity to access all school resources, including a licensed mental health professional or a school psychologist.
092	Jim Green	Reports that "school psychologist" is a term of art; they are not licensed mental health professionals.
102	Chair Sunseri	Asks if the ñB8 amendments achieve the intended purpose.
105	Green	Replies no. States that the language of the ñB8 amendments can be moved to subsection B.
107	Sen. Courtney	Asks if the new language should be added in the section of the bill dealing with immediate attention rather than the evaluation stage. Stresses the difference between immediate attention and evaluation.
116	Rep. Lokan	Agrees with Sen. Courtney.
123	Chair Sunseri	Asks for agreement from the members. Asks if the rules need to be suspended to move the language of the ñB8 amendments to subsection B.
130	Hunt	Replies that the conference committee report is specifically attached to the ñB8 amendments. States that the committee may have to re-convene to vote on the ñB9 amendments.

134	Chair Sunseri	Asks if the rules can be suspended for a conceptual amendment.
137	Hunt	Reiterates that the committee report is specifically attached to the ñB8 amendments. Adds that another committee report is needed for the ñB9 amendments, or, as another option, the committee can amend the bill conceptually and re-convene only if there is a technical problem.
143	Sen. Shannon	Asks if immediate attention means separating the children. States that children should not just see psychologists.
149	Chair Sunseri	Comments that most districts do not have psychologists available.
151	Sen. Shannon	States that she wants to do more, including confining the children.
155	Rep. Lokan	Explains that HB 3444 is directed to children who have displayed initial tendencies to become a problem and need early intervention.
160	Chair Sunseri	Stresses that SB 344 is the bill that allows for demonstrably dangerous children to be taken out of the classroom and held, while HB 3444 deals with childrenís initial tendencies.
168	Sen. Courtney	MOTION: Moves to SUSPEND the rules for the purpose of making a conceptual amendment.
		VOTE: 6-0
		Chair Sunseri
		Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.
180	Sen. Courtney	Asks if "or the office of any licensed mental health professional" should be deleted.
185	Cathy Osborne	Human Rights Project. Indicates that the deletion is unnecessary; the new language gives schools the option to take children immediately to a mental health professional.
195	Sen. Courtney	Asks if the language should be inserted after "professional" rather than "counselor."
196	Chair Sunseri	Asks Hunt if it makes a difference where the language is inserted.

199	Hunt	States that it does not matter.
205	Sen. Courtney	MOTION: Moves HB 3444B to the floor with the recommendation that House concur in the Senate amendments and that the bill be further amended by inserting the language of the -B8 amendments on line 6 after "counselor" and the measure be repassed.
		VOTE: 6-0 AYE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye.
	Chair Sunseri	The motion CARRIES. REP. LOKAN will lead discussion on the floor.
215	Chair Sunseri	Adjourns the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Brad Daniels, Norm Fox,

Administrative Support Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A ñHB 3444, -B8 amendments, staff, 1 p.