

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

May 5, 1999 Hearing Room B

1:00 p.m. Tapes 92-93

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Tom Hartung, Chair

Sen. Susan Castillo, Vice-Chair

Sen. Peter Courtney

Sen. Verne Duncan

Sen. Gary George

Sen. Avel Gordly

Sen. Marylin Shannon

MEMBER EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT:

Jan McComb, Administrator

Karen O'Kelley, Administrative Support

MEASURES HEARD: HB 3305 Public Hearing and Work Session

HB 3042 Public Hearing and Work Session

HCR 4 Public Hearing and 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 92, A		

004	Chair Hartung	Convenes meeting at 1:02 p.m. and opens public hearing on HB 3305.
<u>HB 3305 PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
006	Sen. Starr	Senate District 5. Testifies in favor of HB 3305 and submits (EXHIBIT C) . Explains that this bill is a "redo" of last session's phonics legislation which was vetoed by the Governor. States that HB 3305 requests that the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) provides a selection of instructional materials for "explicit phonics and decodable text." Explains that these materials would be available at schools for teachers to use.
		Discusses the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "The failure to learn to read" is the most serious problem facing education in the U.S. today. 2. A study which indicated that 40 percent of children in America are not able to pass a third grade reading test. 3. Children who are not reading by the third grade will be assigned to remedial programs.
083		States that this bill does not mandate the teaching of explicit phonics, but it makes the materials available for teachers. Urges the committee to pass HB 3305.
092	Sen. George	Asks Sen. Starr for to share some effective reading practices.
109	Sen. Starr	Describes the phonics game. Discusses the success his grandson had with phonics.
133	Rep. Ron Sunseri	State Representative District 22. Explains that this bill would be a mandate for the ODE to make phonics materials available to teachers.
		Explains that California had such problem using the whole language program, that they mandated phonics. Comments that at the State Reading Summit, Stan Bunn stated that phonics are one of his goals.
176	Sen. Gordly	Asks what the House Education Committee learned about the California experience. Asks what the committee learned about minority students and reading.
185	Rep. Sunseri	Responds that California was dead last nationwide in reading using the whole language programs. States that since the California legislature mandated phonics, they have made great progress in reading.
		States that he cannot recall the testimony on minority students.
203	Sen. Gordly	Asks Rep. Sunseri what his committee learned about "individual learning styles"

		and how phonics relates to those.
209	Rep. Sunseri	Responds that children learn differently. States that the decision needs to be made by individual teachers.
218	Sen. Courtney	Asks if "K-2 is the magic time vs. K-3."
224	Rep. Sunseri	Responds that K-2 is the best time to establish the decodable text.
238	Jim Green	Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA). Opposes HB 3305. States that the OSBA supports phonics, but not this bill. States that if teachers decide not to use the phonics materials, then resources will be wasted.
268	Sen. Gordly	Asks Green if the children who can benefit from phonics are receiving that instruction. Asks about accountability.
272	Green	Responds that at grade 3 there are statewide assessments with regard to reading.
283	Sen. Gordly	States that grade 3 might be too late. Asks if there is a process that teachers use to determine whether or not they will use phonics for their students.
295	Green	Responds that the statewide assessment is a broad description of accountability. Explains that assessments happen on a daily basis within the classroom.
313	Sen. George	Asks if explicit phonics are available to teachers now.
316	Green	Believes they are, based on a conversation he had with the Salem-Keizer School District.
334	Sen. George	States that phonics materials could be ordered as the teachers needed them. Asks Green if he really thinks that this bill would cost a lot of money.
342	Green	Responds that it could be a problem for some districts. States that it could be a budgetary concern.
349	Sen. George	Asks what schools would have a concern.
355	Green	Responds that he is referring to larger school districts. States that some school districts are concerned about the cost.
386	Sen. Duncan	Asks Green if all school districts in Oregon are using phonics.

397	Green	Responds that he cannot answer for all 198 school districts in Oregon. States that 15 school districts across the state are using phonics.
405	Sen. Duncan	States that the key to education is parents who are committed to their kids.
TAPE 93, A		
027	Sen. Gordly	Asks how many children need phonics in order to learn to read.
033	Green	Responds that he does not know.
038	Greg McMurdo	Responds that the ODE does not have the answer.
041	Sen. Gordly	Asks if anyone from the ODE is trying to determine the answer. States that children benefit from various "learning styles."
051	McMurdo	Responds that phonics should be available to children. States that the ODE supports this bill.
061	Sen. Gordly	Asks if the students who need phonics are getting the instruction they need.
065	McMurdo	Responds that this bill would provide the materials for teachers to use.
070	Sen. Gordly	Asks McMurdo if teachers are currently able to accurately assess which students need phonics instruction.
077	McMurdo	Responds that the teachers are able to. Believes that there is an issue with teacher training colleges to whether or not teachers are trained to use phonics.
079	Sen. Gordly	Asks McMurdo what information he has about teacher training in regard to phonics.
081	McMurdo	Responds that he does not have any.
083	Sen. Shannon	Comments to Green that this bill is not talking about millions of dollars.
		States that phonics is taught in every first grade class in California. States that phonics has a proven record of success.
131	Green	Comments that he is concerned that the teachers are not being taught how to teach phonics.

139	Sen. George	States that teachers should be given that "tool."
142	Green	Explains that if you have a teacher who is not prepared to teach phonics to a classroom then school districts will be providing materials that will not be used.
164	Sen. George	States that we need to "fill the toolbox" for teachers.
180	McMurdo	States that this bill would send a clear message to training colleges that phonics are a priority.
181	Green	States that the University of Oregon (UO) provides teacher education for phonics. Comments that all teachers are being trained.
196	Sen. Duncan	Asks who the reading specialist is at the ODE.
198	McMurdo	Responds that the job was cut, but it is in the governor's recommended budget.
201	Sen. Duncan	States that phonics should be taught in the schools. Comments that he is pleased that phonics are in the textbook adoption criteria.
228	McMurdo	States that the State Board of Education will implement the criteria several months before this bill would become law.
246	Sen. Shannon	Believes that teachers should not have any difficulty teaching phonics.
257	Sen. Duncan	States that we know much more about learning styles today than we did in the 1950s.
303	Rep. Bruce Starr	House District 3. Testifies in support of HB 3305. States that phonics are proven to work for a majority of children. Urges the committee to support the bill.
330	Vice-Chair Castillo	Closes public hearing on HB 3305 and opens public hearing on HB 3042.
<u>HB 3042 PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
343	Bruce O'Neil	Testifies in opposition to HB 3042. States that it should be mandatory for students to have a second language. States that without a second language, students will be behind in a global economy.
395	Vice-Chair Castillo	States that on the House side, they determined that there is a shortage of teachers to teach second languages.

407	Sen. Gordly	Agrees with OiNeil. Thinks that it is "unreal that we are considering repealing a foreign language requirement." Comments that the Senate passed a memorial last week declaring Portland as an international city.
TAPE 92, B		
009	Ozzie Rose	Confederation of Oregon School Administrators (COSA). Testifies in favor of HB 3042. States that this bill is not about doing away with language. States that this bill is seeking to repeal a part of statute which states that all students that graduate from high school in the year 2001-2002 will need "two years of language seat-time to graduate."
		States that more than 70 school districts in the state do not have the staff to meet this requirement. Explains that there are not enough teachers to teach second languages.
047	Sen. Shannon	Asks Rose if he has ever been a teacher.
049	Rose	Responds that he has.
052	Sen. Shannon	Comments that the term "seat-time" offends her.
058	Rose	Responds that he did not intend to have the term interpreted that way.
067	Sen. Gordly	Thanks Rose for clarifying the intent of the bill and for explaining that the requirement can be waived.
070	Vice-Chair Castillo	Asks Rose what is wrong with keeping the waiver available to schools.
073	Rose	Responds that school districts are struggling to get the requirement done with existing resources. States that it would be better to focus on what can be accomplished.
084	Sen. Gordly	States that there are other pieces of reform that schools are not able to accomplish.
091	Rose	States that the second language requirement is in the law in two places.
099	Sen. Courtney	States that this is the kind of bill that challenges the resources that will go to education. Asks Rose if he is referring to small schools.
114	Rose	Responds that both big and small schools do not have enough teachers.

119	Sen. Courtney	States that Western Oregon College (WOC) has identified second language teachers as having a critical teaching shortage. States that WOC is trying to prepare graduates to teach foreign languages.
138	Rose	States that the kids need to complete the requirement in the next three years. States that the teachers from WOC will not be ready in time.
167	Rose	States that COSA is not against the second language requirement.
193	Carl Falsgraf	Faculty Member, UO. Refers to research which indicates that studying a second language makes people smarter.
		States that in the 21 st century, you will need a second language to be considered an educated person. Urges the committee to either amend or "kill" this bill. States that Oregon has become the national leader in second language education.
279		States that the number of student teachers in the pipeline getting an endorsement in a second language is up about 40 percent from the previous year.
367	Bob Willner	Executive Secretary, Confederation in Oregon for Language Teaching (COFLT). Submits (EXHIBIT D) .
373	Terri Carnes	Spanish teacher, Corvallis High School, President, COFLT. Testifies against HB 3042 and submits (EXHIBIT E) . Lists three issues concerning HB 3042: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The negative impact it has already had in the language teaching profession. 2. The need to recognize that Certificate of Initial Mastery (CIM) second language requirement is a very weak standard that cannot stand by itself. 3. The positive strides that have been made by many districts across the state to carry out the law.
460	Chair Hartung	Asks Carnes if she testified before the House Education Committee.
462	Carnes	Responds that she did not.
TAPE 93, B		
001	Sen. Shannon	Comments on the superintendent who requested the bill.
028	Falsgraf	States that the districts need to make the second language requirement a priority.
030	Willner	Proposes the ñ3 amendment included in EXHIBIT D .

042	Sen. Duncan	States that Willner is committed to this concept. Adds that the committee should accept his recommendation for the ñ3 amendments.
044	Chair Hartung	Closes public hearing on HB 3042 and opens work session on HB 3042.
<u>HB 3042 WORK SESSION</u>		
051	Sen. Shannon	MOTION: Moves to ADOPT HB 3042-3 amendments dated 05/04/99.
054	Sen. Gordly	Asks what would be accomplished with the new deadline.
057	Willner	Responds that it would be easier to development gradually. Explains that COFLT is assuming that the ODE is going to work with other agencies to accelerate the training of second language teachers.
072	Sen. Gordly	States that it is a problem if Oregon does not know how many second language teachers are needed.
081	Sen. Duncan	Asks if the ODE support the ñ3 amendments.
085	Chair Hartung	States that they do.
		VOTE: 7-0
091	Chair Hartung	Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED. Refer to Tape 93, side B, tick 157, for Sen. Georgeís vote.
092	Sen. Duncan	MOTION: Moves HB 3042 to the floor with a DO PASS AS AMENDED recommendation.
		VOTE: 7-0 AYE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye.
101	Chair Hartung	The motion CARRIES. SEN. DUNCAN will lead discussion on the floor. Refer to Tape 93, side B, tick 157, for Sen. Georgeís vote.

102	Chair Hartung	Closes work session on SB 3042 and opens public hearing on HCR 4.
<u>HCR 4 PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
103	Sen. Duncan	Explains that this resolution honors Wallace "Wally" McCrae. States that McCrae was "Mr. Education in the state of Oregon." Urges the committee to support this resolution.
140	Sen. Shannon	Agrees with Sen. Duncan's comments.
147	Chair Hartung	Closes public hearing on HCR 4 and opens work session on HCR 4.
<u>HCR 4 WORK SESSION</u>		
149	Sen. DUNCAN:	MOTION: Moves HCR 4 be sent to the floor with a BE ADOPTED recommendation.
		VOTE: 5-0 AYE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye. EXCUSED: 2 - Courtney, Gordly
155	Chair Hartung	The motion CARRIES . SEN. DUNCAN will lead discussion on the floor.
157	Sen. George	MOTION: Requests unanimous consent that the rules be SUSPENDED to allow SEN. GEORGE to BE RECORDED as voting AYE on "HB 3042 as amended".
163	Chair Hartung	Closes work session on HCR 4 and opens work session on HB 3305.
<u>HB 3305 WORK SESSION</u>		
175	Sen. George	MOTION: Moves HB 3305 to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation.
179	Sen. Duncan	States that he will support the bill because the ODE is incorporating the concepts.

181	Vice-Chair Castillo	Asks if the ODE supports this bill.
182	Chair Hartung	Responds that they do.
		VOTE: 4-1 AYE: 4 - Duncan, George, Shannon, Hartung NAY: 1 - Castillo EXCUSED: 2 - Courtney, Gordly
192	Chair Hartung	The motion CARRIES. SEN. SHANNON will lead discussion on the floor.
194	Chair Hartung	Closes work session on SB 3305 and adjourns meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Karen O'Kelley Jan McComb

Administrative Support Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A ñ HB 3305, written testimony, submitted prior to meeting, Phyllis Edmundson, 1 p

B ñ HB 3305, written testimony, submitted prior to meeting, Dr. Deborah Simmons, 2 pp

C ñ HB 3305, magazine articles, Sen. Charles Starr, 5 pp

D ñ HB 3042, written testimony, Bob Willner, 4 pp

E ñ HB 3042, written testimony, Terri Carnes, 3 pp