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SENATE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ELECTIONS

May 6, 1997 Hearing Room 343

3:00 PM Tapes 54 - 56

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Randy Miller, Chair

Sen. Gene Derfler, Vice-Chair

Sen. Neil Bryant

Sen. Randy Leonard

Sen. Cliff Trow

MEMBER EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT:

Jan Nordlund, Administrator

Jennifer Peck, Administrative Support

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:

SB 222 Work Session

Introduction of Committee Bills

HB 2352 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 54, A		
002	Chair Miller	Opens meeting at 3:05 p.m. and opens work session on SB 222.
<u>SB 222 WORK SESSION</u>		
006		Staff presents proposed -7 and -8 amendments (EXHIBIT A).
007	Jan Nordlund	Committee administrator. Explains the amendments to SB 222.
018	Sen. Derfler	Comments on the League of Women Voters' pamphlet.
023	Chair Miller	Discussion of vote-by-mail.
041	Colleen Sealock	Director of Elections, Secretary of State. Discusses content of voters' pamphlets. Comments on a satirical argument which was issued.
076	Sen. Derfler	Asks about suggestions for language which could correct these flaws.
079	Sealock	Explains they do not have suggestions for changes since they do not want to alter the interpretation of what the original drafter may or may not have meant.
088	Sen. Derfler	Comments on misleading arguments.
092	Sealock	Comments it is difficult to take a position since the subjects may be speech issues.
103	Chair Miller	Asks if arguments have ever been blatant enough to announce an argument is labeled as supporting when it is actually written for an opposing side.
112	Sealock	Cites examples of previous filings.
135	Lynn Rossack	Assistant Attorney General, represents Secretary of State. States there is not space provided for neutral arguments in the voters' pamphlet. Comments on clarity of supporting or opposing arguments in the voters' pamphlet.
170	Chair Miller	States the critical issue seems to be the amount of the fee increase.
184	Sen. Bryant	States he is willing to subsidize a group having one argument in the voters' pamphlet, but not supporting multiple arguments.
		Suggests only changing \$750 per argument in order to allow all

198	Sen. Trow	income levels to have equal opportunity.
206	Sen. Bryant	Suggests one argument per side.
222	Sen. Trow	States that could work.
225	Chair Miller	Comments on difficulty identifying which people would write arguments.
232		Discussion of the \$2,500 rate for every argument beyond the first.
237	Sen. Leonard	Asks which candidates are being excluded from the voters' pamphlet in the -7 and -8 amendments.
244	Nordlund	Explains the origin of this language.
248	Sealock	States there are not any changes from the past two election cycles. Comments on possible problems with multiple filings.
297	Sealock	Suggests an amendment which would allow the Secretary of State's office to collect the \$750 fee but not need to decide if it is not the first argument until the final deadline day. Comments on payments before printing.
300	Sen. Bryant	Agrees with the payment amendment.
306	Chair Miller	Comments on a flat payment of \$1,000 per argument.
317	Sen. Leonard	States that \$1,000 per person establishes a level playing field for those who would want to put in multiple arguments.
337		Discussion of the amounts which should be charged.
355	Chair Miller	MOTION: Moves to AMEND the -7 amendments to SB 222 on page 9, in line 24, changing "\$750" to "\$1,000".
		VOTE: 4-1 AYE: 4 - Bryant, Derfler, Leonard, Miller NAY: 1 - Trow
	Chair Miller	The motion CARRIES.
358	Chair Miller	MOTION: Moves to ADOPT SB 222 -7 amendments AS AMENDED dated 4/30/97.
	Chair Miller	Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.
360	Chair Miller	MOTION: Moves SB 222 to the floor with a DO PASS AS AMENDED recommendation.
		VOTE: 4-1 AYE: 4 - Bryant, Derfler, Leonard, Miller NAY: 1 - Trow

	Chair Miller	The motion CARRIES. Sen. MILLER will lead discussion on the floor.
370	Chair Miller	Closes work session on SB 222 and opens work session for introduction of measures for approval.
<u>INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE BILLS</u>		
373	Jan Nordlund	Committee administrator. Lists the LC for approval and the draft and introduction requests.
388	Chair Miller	MOTION: Moves LC 4361 dated 5/1/97 BE INTRODUCED as a committee bill and draft and introduction requests concerning creating an oversight committee for Oregon Department of Transportation be approved.
	Chair Miller	Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED. LC 4361 is introduced as SB 8.
393	Chair Miller	Closes work session and opens public hearing on HB 2352.
<u>HB 2352 PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
394		Staff submits a letter and chart presented prior to the meeting and proposed -A2 amendments (EXHIBIT B).
395	Sen. Marylin Shannon	District 15. Supports HB 2352.
414	Rep. Roger Beyer	District 28. Presents and reads testimony in support of HB 2352 (EXHIBIT C). Explains HB 2352.
<u>TAPE 55, A</u>		
001	Rep. Beyer	Refers to the diagrams in the exhibit. Explains it is cheaper per student to run schools in many rural areas, and mergers would make it more expensive to educate each student.
044	Sen. Leonard	Asks if Rep. Beyer has seen the letter from Butte School District.
046	Rep. Beyer	States he has.
047	Sen. Leonard	Reads an excerpt from that letter concerning technical problems if HB 2352 were to pass since they benefited from unification.
068	Rep. Beyer	Comments on the voluntary Butte Creek merger with Silverton.
	Sen.	

078	Leonard	Continues to read parts of the letter.
090	Rep. Beyer	States most of the other schools in the area do not want to merge.
093	Sen. Shannon	States Butte Creek can merge. States the only group which opposes HB 2352 is Confederation of Oregon School Administrators (COSA).
107	Sen. Bryant	Asks what the vote was in the House.
108	Rep. Beyer	Responds it was 34-25.
112	Sen. Derfler	Asks for explanation of COSA's objections.
118	Sen. Shannon	States she thinks they would be money related.
124	Holly Martin	Parent, Boring, Oregon. Presents and reads testimony in support of HB 2352 (EXHIBIT D). Discusses Cottrell School as a school which works. Describes the accomplishments of Cottrell. States Cottrell would crumble under a merger.
167	Jerald Geiszler	Parent, Boring, Oregon. Presents and reads testimony in support of SB 2352 (EXHIBIT E). Explains Cottrell is a small school with high quality and low costs. States the unmerged schools have proved they are strong schools and should be allowed to keep their quality programs.
220	Sen. Leonard	Asks if Martin thinks Cottrell has enough money to provide students with an excellent education.
238	Martin	States Cottrell has a surplus budget at this point as long as they are not merged.
245		Discussion of Cottrell as a small school as compared to merged schools.
263	Geiszler	States decisions are made more quickly in the smaller system.
275	Sen. Derfler	Comments on the efficiencies of these schools.
284	Geiszler	States the teachers may get paid less, but they get answers they need more quickly because less administration is needed.
300	Sen. Derfler	Asks about supplies and books.
307	Geiszler	Explains the school is very progressive.
315	Martin	Comments on the librarian who runs the computer program.
317	Sen. Derfler	Asks about the class sizes.
317	Martin	Explains the assistant teacher system. Explains the kindergarten system.
329	Sen. Bryant	Asks where the Cottrell students will go to high school.
339	Geiszler	States they will go to Sandy.

341	Sen. Trow	Asks about funding of Cottrell. Asks what teachers are paid.
351	Martin	States the teachers participate in deciding on whether money should go towards raises or different school programs.
366	Mary Mayther Slac	Parent, Boring, Oregon. Presents and reads testimony in support of HB 2352 (EXHIBIT F). Explains other schools in the state have funding problems whereas Cottrell has retained special programs and is in the black.
402	Gary Slac	Parent, Boring, Oregon. Explains the teachers and principal at Cottrell are working together to make their school effective and the community places the school as the top priority. Comments on the lack of drug abuse and violence at the school because it is smaller and the community cares.
TAPE 54, B		
001	Sen. Derfler	Comments that the community is interested in their school system because it works.
003	Slac	States the budgeting at Cottrell works.
011	Sen. Leonard	Comments on the impressiveness of the Cottrell system.
025	Slac	Comments on the power of the individual within Oregon.
027	Sen. Leonard	Comments on needing to work around the choices of the voters and somehow continue to run programs.
038	Slac	Comments on Cottrell functioning with more programs per dollar because of parents and staff volunteers.
052	Mayther Slac	States it would cost more money for Cottrell to merge. Comments on bigger programs not necessarily being better.
070	Sen. Trow	Expresses concern that teachers are possibly underpaid.
088		Discussion of the lower wages for these teachers.
094	Ozzie Rose	Confederation of Oregon Administrators. Opposes HB 2352. Comments on the history of this issue and the expenses for running various programs. Discusses inequalities which were discovered among districts.
155	Rose	Comments on funding and background of reasons for the merger. States the merger should be installed and then exceptions may be considered.
203	Rose	States all of the schools must merge, without exceptions.
211	Jeri McMahan	Brightwood, Oregon. Presents and reads testimony in support of HB 2352 (EXHIBIT G). States more money goes toward each student if the schools are not merged. States the financial freedom is important. Lists some of the losses which would occur if Welches were to merge.
279	McMahan	Comments on the logical five-day school schedule Welches uses. Lists the programs Welches has and Sandy schools do not.

322	James Shockley	Principal and teacher, Ophir School District. Presents testimony in support of HB 2352 (EXHIBIT H). Displays an overhead to show the high cost of a merger. States the schools which have already merged made a choice to merge early.
385	Shockley	States it costs about \$130,000 more to merge the districts.
403	Charlotte Heatherly	Brookings, Oregon. Cites an example of the community helping to repair the local school, which is one way costs are kept down in the unmerged schools. Explains the class size limit.
TAPE 55, B		
001	Heatherly	States the school has been able to buy items second-hand, which lowers costs. States the community has input into the education.
015	Nieca Wright	Parent, Upper Chetco School. Presents testimony in support of HB 2352 (EXHIBIT I). States the teachers are paid a little less, but they come to the area with that understanding.
049	Chair Miller	Asks if the students helped with the school painting.
051	Heatherly	Explains the students volunteered.
060	Chair Miller	Asks if the students take good care of the property.
061	Heatherly	States they do.
068	Sen. Trow	Asks about pay and benefits for teachers.
070	Heatherly	Explains the payment plan for teachers. Comments that the school does not have a superintendent, which saves the school money.
078	Sen. Leonard	Comments that teachers should be paid well.
082	Heatherly	States Sen. Tarno supports HB 2352.
088	Chair Miller	Asks if there has ever been a shortage of teachers.
090	Heatherly	States there has not been a shortage of teachers. Lists some reasons teachers prefer to teach at Upper Chetco School.
104	Tom Ruhl	Sauvie Island School District. Supports HB 2352. Comments on the quality relationships between students and teachers in smaller schools.
159	Ruhl	Comments that high school programs are more expensive to run than elementary programs because they do not have the extra-curricular programs.
180	Sen. Derfler	Asks what the difference is in costs between the programs.
188	Ruhl	States it is about 15% to 20%. Discussion of how the elementary system helps to cover costs for the high school.
208	Rep. Beyer	Comments on the school funding formula.

218	Ruhl	States the community uses the Sauvie Island School facility in many ways.
235	Linda Zirk	Teacher, Gresham, Oregon. Supports HB 2352. Comments on the jobs program in the Cottrell School. States that the books and materials which are bought are chosen with the input of the teachers.
290	Zirk	Comments on teachers' choices for their raises versus putting the same money into school programs. States the administrators and the teachers should all have the students' interests as the first priority.
340	Janice Schiedler	Chair, Scotts Mills School Board, teacher and parent. Presents and reads testimony in support of HB 2352 (EXHIBIT J). Explains there is less red tape and more efficiency in the smaller districts. Comments on the teachers choosing to get lower wages by not supporting a merger because they see the merits in the smaller schools.
420	Sen. Trow	Asks how much less teachers are paid than in other districts.
430	Schiedler	Estimates the average would be about \$2,000. Explains the contingency fund has been shrinking.
455	Sharon Roy	Teacher, Bethany, Oregon. Supports HB 2352.
TAPE 56, A		
004	Roy	States the Bethany School is the hub of the community. Comments that the students see their parents having an impact on the school. States this is a local control issue.
044	Barry Green	Parent, Sauvie Island School District. Supports HB 2352. States the merger would come across as a hostile takeover. Describes the alterations the community would go through were the merger to occur.
087	Kristina McNitt	Presents written testimony on behalf of the Oregon Farm Bureau (EXHIBIT K) in support of HB 2352.
088	Chair Miller	Closes public hearing on HB 2352 and opens work session on HB 2352.
HB 2352 WORK SESSION		
094	Jan Nordlund	Committee Administrator. Explains the proposed -A2 amendments to resolve conflicts.
108	Chair Miller	MOTION: Moves to ADOPT HB 2352 -A2 amendments dated 5/5/97.
109	Sen. Trow	Asks about the effect of amendments.
105	Nordlund	Explains the effect.
113		VOTE: 4-1 AYE: 4 - Bryant, Derfler, Leonard, Miller

		NAY: 1 - Trow
	Chair Miller	The motion CARRIES.
115	Chair Miller	MOTION: Moves HB 2352 to the floor with a DO PASS AS AMENDED recommendation.
121	Sen. Leonard	Comments on the testimony and states teachers should not need to subsidize education.
149	Sen. Trow	States all of Oregon ought to follow the consolidation.
		VOTE: 4-1 AYE: 4 - Bryant, Derfler, Leonard, Miller NAY: 1 - Trow
166	Chair Miller	The motion CARRIES. Sen. SHANNON will lead discussion on the floor.
168	Chair Miller	Closes work session on HB 2352 and adjourns meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Jennifer Peck, Jan Nordlund,

Administrative Support Administrator

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EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A - SB 222, proposed -7 and -8 amendments, staff, 22 pp

B - HB 2352, proposed -A2 amendments, chart and letter submitted prior to meeting, staff, 4 pp

C - HB 2352, letter, graphs and charts, Rep. Roger Beyer, 9 pp

D - HB 2352, written testimony, Holly Martin, 1 p

E - HB 2352, written testimony, Jerald Geiszler, 2 pp

F - HB 2352, written testimony, Mary Mayther Slac, 1 p

G - HB 2352, written testimony, Jeri McMahan, 3 pp

H - HB 2352, written testimony, James Shockley, 2 pp

I - HB 2352, written testimony, Nieca Wright, 3 pp

J - HB 2352, written testimony, Janice Schiedler, 1 p

K - HB 2352, written testimony and charts, Kristina McNitt, 4 pp
