

^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

July 22, 1993          Hearing Room C 1:30 p.m.      Tapes 113-114

MEMBERS PRESENT:    Rep. Carolyn Oakley, Chair Rep. Jim Whitty, Vice-Chair  
Rep. John Meek Rep. Patti Milne Rep. John Schoon Rep. Larry Sowa Rep.  
Sharon Wylie

STAFF PRESENT:                Linda Sample Brown, Committee Administrator  
Carolynn Gillson, Committee Assistant

MEASURES CONSIDERED:                SB 881A - Funding of Juvenile Correc. ed  
programs, PAW

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These minutes contain materials which paraphrase and/or summarize statements made during this session. Only text enclosed in quotation marks report a speaker's exact words. For complete contents of the proceedings, please refer to the tapes. [--- Unable To Translate Graphic ---]

TAPE 113, SIDE A

005    REP. CAROLYN OAKLEY, chair:    Calls the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.

Public Hearing on SB 881A

010    KAREN BRAZEAU, DOE:    Reviews what the bill does: transfers responsibility for educational programs in juvenile correction facilities from DHR to DOE and establishes additional funding of up to \$1 million for those programs.

024    RICK HILL, Acting Director, Juvenile Corrections, DHR:    Juvenile correction camps are located at Florence, Tillamook, Corvallis and Hillgard near LaGrande. > Provides written testimony supporting SB 881A (EXH. A).

BRAZEAU: Most of the youth in these facilities qualify for special education services which they are not receiving and, therefore, place the state out of compliance with federal statutes. > Describes the continuing problems in those programs.

068    REP. MEEK: Why aren't these requirements being met? Why do we need this bill?

BRAZEAU: Believes state has known the programs have not operated properly for some time and they have not been made a priority for funding. Educational leaders in MacLaren and Hillcrest are aware of the needs but have not had the resources do anything about it.

HILL: Three years ago we requested the DOE to audit the educational programs. After the audits were completed, we made significant improvements and changes with existing resources in the MacLaren program including hiring a new principal. The principal at Hillcrest has retired and a new principal will be hired. The issue continues to

be the funding. Priorities for funding are generally with younger children. Moving the programs from DHR to DOE will give them more priority.

106 REP. MEEK: What makes you think the DOE has more money than you do?

HILL: DOE can access the Basic School Support Fund. Many youth are special education students who generate more than the average amount of money for education.

BRAZEAU: Two years ago there was a proposal to transfer the programs to DOE. The DOE acknowledged without additional funding it was not going to make a tremendous difference. The educational programs in these schools are funded below public school programs for kids with similar problems.

REP. MEEK: How much is being spent now for the education of these kids?

HILL: Around \$4.5 to \$5 million for 1000 kids per year, which is approximately \$5,000 a year per child.

BRAZEAU: Average yearly cost for a disabled child is \$9,000. A significant number of kids end up in trouble with the law because they have learning problems.

157 REP. MILNE: What is the typical student at MacLaren or Hillcrest being offered?

HILL: We have a limited number of courses. No electives and very few related services such as speech therapy or hearing interpreters.

REP. MILNE: What is the average length of time a student is in a facility?

HILL: Depends upon the seriousness of the offense and how old the youth is upon arrival. > Could be one-to-three years for a serious offense and three-to-six months for a property offense. Have to let students go at age 21. > Processing students in and out takes a lot of time. > Profile of students changes rapidly. Fifty-five percent of the kids at MacLaren are there for murder, sex offense or arson. > Talks about a particular offense and time served.

224 REP. SCHOON: The \$5,000 per student is above the statewide average. The kids I see at those facilities are pretty functional.

BRAZEAU: Part of problem is the inability to adequately describe the kind of kids who need special education. Around 55,000 kids in Oregon are disabled under the federal law. Seventy-five percent of those kids have either a learning disability or speech and language impairment. Comparatively fewer children have obvious handicapped conditions. Most of the kids at the two schools qualify because of emotional disturbance. The \$9,000 is the average cost for all of those kids. More multiply handicapped kids cost around \$17,000 to \$20,000 per year.

HILL: Six out of 7 of our kids come from public schools already with special education needs.

REP. MEEK: What about ESD services?

HILL: In some school districts, we can contract with an ESD for services. We pay a higher rate for those services. In other school districts, we are not able to do that.

REP. MEEK: How do you see that changing?

BRAZEAU: The DOE is more likely to work with service providers and form better relationships.

318 REP. MEEK: So those services can be accessed today but CSD does not access them and the DOE would?

BRAZEAU: Because of the nature of the work DOE does, it will be less difficult to access services. CSD staff may not have the necessary training or background. If they had the funds, it could be done. Issue is similar to the program DOE runs at the state hospital.

REP. MEEK: How does the \$5 million breakdown in regards to state and federal funds?

HILL: Most of it is from the general fund and the rest comes from grants.

REP. MEEK: Does the \$5 million get transferred to DOE?

BRAZEAU: Believes it will be in a budget note. An additional \$1 million will help DOE begin to make changes at those schools. It is a step towards demonstrating the state is committed to move closer to an appropriate program.

402 HILL: Section 5 on page 2 of the bill refers to the transfer of the funds from CSD to DOE.

BRAZEAU: The amount of federal funds for this program are around \$500 per child. > Talks about accessing ESD services.

REP. MEEK: Why hasn't CSD contracted with DOE to administer the programs?

TAPE 114, SIDE A

014 HILL: Originally, transferring the programs to the DOE was not part of this bill. > Explains why the DOE is the best place do the job.

BRAZEAU: Talks about findings of poor performance from recent visits to MacLaren and Hillcrest.

069 MOTION: Rep. Whitty moves SB 881A to the Revenue Committee with a do pass recommendation.

REP. MEEK: Questions why the bill is necessary and why it needs to go to the Revenue Committee.

MOTION: Rep. Meek moves to postpone the bill indefinitely. VOTE: In a roll call vote, the motion fails with Reps. Meek and Milne voting AYE.

123 REP. MILNE: Not comfortable with the bill. VOTE ON FIRST MOTION: In a roll call vote, the motion carries with Reps. Meek and Milne

voting NO.

135 CHAIR OAKLEY: Adjourns the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

Reviewed and submitted by:

Carolynn Gillson Assistant

EXHIBIT LOG: A - Testimony on SB 881A - DHR- 2 pages