

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

January 21, 1993 Hearing Room E 1:30 p.m. Tapes 3

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

MEMBER EXCUSED: Rep. Carolyn Oakley, Chair

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

MEASURES CONSIDERED: HB 2063 - Makes permanent changes in State Board of Education meeting schedule - PH HB 2090 - Authorizes school districts to charge tuition for driver training - PH

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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 3, SIDE A

010 REP. JIM WHITTY, Vice-Chair: Calls meeting to order.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE BILLS

VICE-CHAIR WHITTY: Reads the summary statement for LC 1146 which would make English the official language of the state at the request of the Oregon State Grange. > Reps. Schoon and Wylie object to introducing LC 1146 as a committee bill.

VICE-CHAIR WHITTY: Reads the summary statement for LC 1462 exempting from property taxes portions of premises used for homeschooling at the request of the Oregon State Grange. > Reps. School and Wylie object to introducing LC 1462 as a committee bill.

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 2063 - Makes permanent changes in meeting schedule of State Board of Education Witnesses: Greg McMurdo, Department of Education (DOE)

044 GREG McMURDO, deputy superintendent, DOE: This bill would eliminate the requirement of a June Board of Education meeting. > Last year the State Board decided to travel around the state and meet in places other than Salem. The times it wanted to do so did not coincide with the statutory times which are required. > The bill also deletes the requirement that the Board must elect it's chair in June. There is not always a necessity of a June meeting. The Board may choose to elect their chair in May.

066 REP. JOHN MEEK: Why is Section 4 in the bill?

McMURDO: Legislative Counsel puts an emergency clause on bills related to schools districts so they will not become effective after the school year has started.

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 2090 - Authorizes school board to charge tuition for driver training Witnesses: Greg McMurdo, DOE Del Freeman, DOE

108 GREG McMURDO, deputy superintendent, DOE: This bill deletes the 90 percent requirement for the state's contribution for driver's education and allows public schools to charge for driver education if it is provided during the regular school day.

125 DEL FREEMAN, driver education specialist, DOE: Explains why driver's education programs were cut from the school curriculum and why they should be brought back. > This concept has been introduced to alleviate some of the financial pressure on school districts. Providing schools the opportunity to produce driver's education classes during the school day at no cost for the school district is enticing to them. > Schools would be reimbursed at \$150 for whatever their administrative costs are and the costs of the program can be charged to the individual student. > Talks about instances where students cannot afford to take the class.

182 REP. SHARON WYLIE: Is driver's education a requirement in Oregon for getting a driver's license?

FREEMAN: Driver's education is not mandatory in Oregon. > Trend around the country is for students to have driver's education before getting a driver's license unless they are 18 years old. > Some studies show a reduced number of accidents as a result of taking driver's education with trained instructors.

235 REP. JOHN MEEK: Is there a Department policy on how school districts handle those individuals who cannot afford the tuition to take driver's education?

FREEMAN: The Department does not have such a policy. It has been interpreted it would be a decision of school districts.

REP. MEEK: I would like school districts who instigate this program to adopt a policy to help parents who cannot afford to pay for it.

280 REP. JOHN SCHOON: Isn't it a contradiction to offer the class as part of the regular curriculum and then charge tuition knowing there are certain students who will not be able to take it?

FREEMAN: I don't believe it would be any different than the situation we are already facing. Many schools will have some funds available to offset the costs for families who cannot afford it.

REP. SCHOON: It bothers me a portion of the students will be excluded.

331 VICE-CHAIR WHITTY: Are the automobiles used for the program donated? FREEMAN: The purpose of the \$150 charge is to provide for a way to acquire automobiles. It is strictly a local dealer's option to take advantage of the manufacturer's rebate.

VICE-CHAIR WHITTY: Suggests an amendment be drafted to address the issue of parents who cannot afford to pay for the class.

419 VICE-CHAIR WHITTY: Adjourns the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

Reviewed by:

Carolynn Gillson
Administrator

Linda Sample Brown Assistant