

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by SENATOR JOSEPH C. HARDER at
Chairperson

1:30 ~~am~~/p.m. on TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 1983 in room 254-E of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

Mr. Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Ms. Avis Swartzman, Legislative Revisor's Office
Mrs. Millie Randell, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

HB 2202 - School districts, state aid for pupil transportation (Education)

Proponents:

Representative James Lowther
Representative John Myers

Opponents:

Mr. John Koepke, Assoc. Executive Director, Kansas Association of
School Boards

Dr. Jerry Schreiner, Executive Director, United School Administrators

HB 2080 - Unified school district no. 241, transfer of land to township
(Representative Crumbaker)

Proponents:

Representative Don Crumbaker

HB 2218 - Unified school district no. 380, land transfer to Corning, Kansas
authorized (Representatives Eckert, Polson)

Proponents:

Representative Lloyd Polson

HB 2443 - Unified school district no. 350, land transfer (Education)

HB 2491 - Unified school district no. 494, land transfer (Education)

HB 2492 - Unified school district no. 284, land transfer authorized (Education)

Following a call to order by Chairman Joseph C. Harder, Senator Kerr moved and Senator Warren seconded a motion to approve minutes of the Committee meetings of March 3, March 7, and March 9. The motion carried.

HB 2202 - The Chairman recognized Representative James Lowther, who testified in support of HB 2202 as amended by the Committee of the Whole in the House. Representative Lowther said that the original intent of HB 2202 was to freeze transportation aid at the 1982-83 level, for although there has been a negligible increase in the number of students utilizing bus transportation, the transportation fund has grown by over 500% since its inception. By putting a brake on transportation aid to busing for a year, he continued, school districts would be able to obtain an overview as to what is happening in this area. When the bill failed to pass in Committee, Representative Lowther said he offered an amendment which would distribute transportation funds to the school districts according to the formula, but this money would be transferred to the General Fund of each district to be utilized according to the discretion of each individual school district.

Representative Lowther then gave the floor to Representative Myers, who testified on behalf of HB 2202. Representative Myers referred the Committee's attention to the amendment on lines 0143-0164 and explained that the amendment provides the opportunity for parents to opt to waive the right for their children to ride the school bus. This waiver, he responded to a question, would be valid for one year. He confirmed that the formula for transportation aid would not change, but he said the bill would strive to cut excess costs for busing due to empty seats on buses. School districts, he felt, would take a closer look at the busing procedure.

At the Committee's request, Mr. Dale Dennis of the State Department of Education explained the formula for determining transportation aid to school districts

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION,
room 254-E, Statehouse, at 1:30 ~~a.m.~~/p.m. on TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 1983.

Mr. John Koepke, testifying in opposition to HB 2202, also stated that the bill as introduced in the House placed a freeze on transportation aid for next year at the level for the current year. He further stated that the amendment to HB 2202 only changes the way in which state aid for transportation is distributed, with the money going into the school district's General Fund for use as the local board so opts. However, Mr. Koepke stated that the Kansas Association of School Boards believes the state aid for transportation funding should, indeed, be transferred from the General Fund into the Transportation Fund for which it was originally intended, since transportation is mandated by the Legislature. Mr. Koepke felt that if there truly is a concern regarding transportation costs, then the Legislature should review the mandate to see if any changes are needed. He offered to work with the Legislature in this respect.

Dr. Jerry Schreiner also testified in opposition to HB 2202. (Attachment 1)

Mr. Ben Barrett of the Legislative Research Department confirmed that the estimate for busing transportation has been revised downward and said we are looking at a lower dollar amount.

HB 2080 - When the Chairman recognized Representative Crumbaker, who testified in support of HB 2080, Representative Crumbaker explained that the bill is a result of an Attorney General's Opinion whereby school boards can no longer transfer land or buildings not being used to some other local unit of government. He mentioned that several similar bills had been recommended to be put on the Consent Calendar, because none are controversial.

When the Chairman called for action on HB 2080, Senator Angell moved and Senator Warren seconded a motion to recommend HB 2080 favorably for passage and to have it put on the Consent Calendar. The motion carried.

Senator Angell moved and Senator Warren seconded a motion to recommend HB 2218 favorably for passage and to have it put on the Consent Calendar. After a second by Senator McCray, the motion carried.

Senator Bogina moved to report HB 2491 favorably for passage and to have the bill put on the Consent Calendar. Senator McCray seconded this motion, and the motion carried.

Senator Montgomery moved and Senator Bogina seconded a motion to report HB 2402 favorably for passage and to have this bill put on the Consent Calendar. The motion carried.

Senator Angell moved to report HB 2202 adversely. This was seconded by Senator Warren, and the motion carried.

The Chairman announced that the Committee would meet on Monday, March 21 to work on two House bills still in Committee, HB 2266 and HB 2473. He then adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

TIME: 1:30 p.m. PLACE: 254-E DATE: March 15, 1983

GUEST LIST

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
Tom Roney Kirk Mitchell	Paola Paola	S Q E USD 382
M D MCKENNEY	TOPEKA	USA KANSAS
John Kayser	Topeka	KASB
Jim Handley	Shawnee Mission	USD #512
B. W. Starks	Wichita	U.S. # 259
Jim Loguttor	Rep. 16 th District	Legislature
Gary Schrein	Topeka	USA
John T. Myers	Wichita 10 th Dist	Leg.
Wm. C. ...	Brewster	Leg.
Oran C. ...	Topeka	USD 501 #
Craig Grant	Lawrence	K-NEA



UNITED SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF KANSAS

1906 EAST 29TH

TOPEKA, KANSAS 66605

913-267-1471

JERRY O. SCHREINER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

M.D. "MAC" MCKENNEY
ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO: Senate Education Committee
FROM: Jerry O. Schreiner, Executive Director
DATE: March 15, 1983
SUBJECT: HB 2202 - Transportation Aid

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Education Committee, I represent the United School Administrators of Kansas in opposition to HB 2202.

1. Transportation of students outside a city and over 2.5 miles from home to school is mandated. If HB 2202 is enacted into law, school districts would be forced to transfer an estimated \$2 million from general funds to transportation funds in 1983-1984 in order to provide the same level of student transportation as in the current year. With the decline in gas prices, the original estimate of \$45 million to fund the transportation aid formula in 1983-1984 has decreased \$6 million. As actual transportation costs decrease, the amount of state aid also decreases. Therefore, the amount of funds made available outside budget limits will be minimal.

2. Transportation of students who live under 2.5 miles presently transported at the discretion of the local board may have to be eliminated due to a lack of funds. HB 2202 would place further restrictions on boards in determining local community needs.

3. It seems unlikely that a student or parent would want to waive the right to have school transportation provided and assume the total cost of transportation to and from school. Many students involved in activity programs ride school buses at different times of the year depending on the activity in which they are involved. Removing and adding students to the transportation routes during the year would only disrupt what is now a workable operation.

4. It is more economical and safer for students to ride school buses than to ask parents to provide private transportation.

5. The legislature, by past actions, has established transportation as a mandated priority. You have also followed this priority with full funding of the transportation aid formula. HB 2202 would be a radical change in this commitment.

The current transportation aid formula was developed with careful consideration on your part. The formula has been "fine tuned" as needed. We do not feel that it is necessary to "fix" a program that is working properly.

We urge you to continue to provide full funding for the transportation aid formula by reporting HB 2202 adversely.