

Approved February 17, 1986  
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by Representative Don E. Crumbaker at  
Chairperson

3:37 ~~am~~/p.m. on February 12, 1986 in room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Rep. Laird, who was excused.

Committee staff present:

Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statute's Office  
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research  
Lynda Cory, Secretary to the Committee

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Barbara Sabol, Secretary of Health and Environment  
Representative Joan Wagnon  
Onan Burnett, Topeka Public Schools  
Curtis Hartenberger, USD #501 Board of Education  
Curtis Barnhill, NEA-Topeka's Chief Negotiator  
Craig Grant, Kansas-National Education Association

Representative Jim Lowther  
John Koepke, Kansas Association of School Boards  
Sheila Frahm, State Board of Education

The Chairman asked for motion to adopt Barbara Stabol's proposal in regards to establishing a coordinating council for early childhood developmental services of handicapped preschool children ages birth through age 5. Rep. Apt moved and Rep. Pottorff seconded; motion carried. (Attachment 1)

Rep. Joan Wagnon opened the hearing on HB 2823 by giving her reasons for submitting the bill. She felt that by extending the contract from two to three years for certain areas, it would promote harmony for a longer period of time between contract renewals.

Onan Burnett and Curtis Hartenberger were both in favor of HB 2823 because the labor peace would focus the energy on education problems rather than contract issues. (Attachment 2, 3)

Curtis Barnhill pointed out that most private sector labor contracts are for a three-year period. Craig Grant felt a three-year contract would allow each side to buy labor peace. (Attachment 4, 5)

The Chairman concluded hearings for HB 2823 and then invited the former chairman of the Education Committee, Rep. Jim Lowther, to present HB 2766.

Rep. Lowther felt that HB 2766 was too strong as it is, but with his recommended amendment, he felt school districts would have the incentive to reduce costs of transportation. If costs for busses, drivers, and fuel could be reduced, he felt that the money could be used for better pay and better career ladder incentives for the district's employees. (Attachment 6)

John Koepke opposed HB 2766 because he felt it was trying to balance the budget on the backs of the children. Bussing was done for two reasons, safety and economics of transporting children in one vehicle over several vehicles, and that bussing would continue at the expense of the local funds.

Sheila Frahm agreed that the State Board of Education was concerned about the safety factor and economic factors of transporting students in more than one vehicle and were opposed to HB 2766 for that reason. (Attachment 7)

The Chairman concluded hearings for HB 2766. The minutes for February 3, 5, and 6 were asked for approval. Rep. Apt moved and Rep. Miller seconded, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

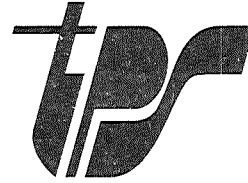


## KDHE REVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

## Establishment of A Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services

Summary

The purpose of this bill is to establish a Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services. This bill will enable the following: the development and implementation of a state plan for comprehensive services for preschool children ages birth through age 5 at risk for or with handicapping conditions, strengthen the coordination among education, health, and social services for these young children and their families, and ensure that state and federal dollars are utilized efficiently.



February 12, 1986

House Education Committee  
Attention: Don Crumbaker, Chairman  
House of Representatives  
State House  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Re: House Bill No. 2823

Dear Committee Members:

The Topeka Board of Education would like to develop a multi-year contract that would cover a three-year period.

It is our belief that a multi-year contract would expedite negotiations. It would allow a longer period of peace and tranquility between the bargaining unit and the Board of Education. It would also reduce the annual costs of staff and time that are presently devoted each year to the negotiation process. These monies could then be channeled toward directly meeting the needs of students.

Recognizing the fact that multi-year funding is not available in the immediate future, it is our desired goal that the State someday will be able to offer this type of funding.

We recommend that we leave open only financial matters and one or two articles which could be opened by either side if desired.

We urge you to vote favorably for the passage of House Bill 2823.

Respectfully,

Onan C. Burnett  
Director  
Governmental Affairs

OCB:je

ATTACHMENT 2 February 12, 1986  
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Healing and peace and the time to effect healing and peace are sought after by children, women, and men. When elected officials can create an environment that allows reaching this goal then all citizens benefit. As an elected official I appear before you to ask your assistance to modify an existing statute to allow school boards and teachers time to achieve this goal. Your support and passage of HB 2823 will create the opportunity for school boards and teachers to reach this goal.

Extending the contract period from a maximum of two years to three years as HB 2823 would permit would assist school boards and benefit teachers. This change would allow school boards the time to implement benefit plans, plan how to fund those plans, and allow two years when energy on the part of school boards and teachers could be focused on solely on educational matters rather than being entirely focused an annual contract struggle. HB 2823 would permit opening the economic part of the contract annually while allowing the remainder of the contract to remain unchanged. The benefits of the change contained in HB 2823 would benefit children, teachers, patrons, and school boards across the State.

Therefore, I ask your support of HB 2823.

Curtis E. Hartenberger  
Member USD 501 Board of Education  
1204 S.W. Plass  
Topeka, Kansas 66604  
February 12, 1986

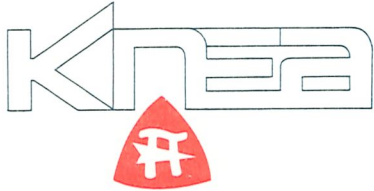
Testimony on H.B. 2823

Feb. 12, 1986

I am Curtis Barnhill, a social studies teacher at Robinson Middle School in U.S.D. 501, Topeka Public Schools. I am NEA-TOPEKA's chief negotiator. NEA-TOPEKA has no objections to increasing the permissible length of professional agreements from two years to three years, as provided in H.B. 2823. Currently most private sector labor contracts are for a three-year duration.

Throughout the state, adoption of H.B. 2823 would give both parties more options; making this measure good public policy. However, my immediate concern is the negotiation situation in Topeka. H.B. 2823 is not a panacea and will not produce miracles for Topeka. I honestly believe, though, that the provisions of H.B. 2823 will increase the opportunities for resolving the long-standing disputes between NEA-TOPEKA and U.S.D. 501 and may be used as a tool to help extract ourselves from the morass in which we have been stuck.

My support for H.B. 2823 should not be construed as a change in NEA-TOPEKA's or K-NEA's position on any other bill before this body.



Craig Grant Testimony Before The  
House Education Committee  
February 12, 1986

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Committee, my name is Craig Grant. I represent Kansas-NEA. I appreciate this chance to speak to you in regard to HB 2823.

Kansas-NEA has no problem extending the possible length of contracts between boards and teachers' associations from two to three years. Most contracts in the private sector are for three years. It is often in both sides best interest to have an extended period when negotiations do not occur. More often in the past it is management which desires long term pacts to lock in "labor peace." Recently labor organizations have sought stability in today's rapidly changing economy through longer term contracts. For whatever reason, if one side or the other wants to "buy" stability or labor peace, we should let that happen.

Because of this, we would support HB 2823. Thank you for listening to our concerns.

ATTACHMENT 5      February 12, 1986  
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

by Jim Lowther

The purpose of this bill is to introduce into funding formula for transporting students to and from school, an incentive for school districts to reduce bussing and, thereby, the expenses incurred by the state and the school districts.

The bill will not impact all districts the same -- for example, a district with most of the students living beyond a five mile radius of the school would be little affected. A district with most of the students between 2½ and 5 miles would be affected.

As it is drawn, the bill before you increases the mandatory distance for bussing from 2½ to 5 miles. Also, it would not provide state aid for students living within five miles. This, as you can appreciate, is too drastic and really was not the intent I had in mind.

Consequently, I have had an amendment prepared that I will submit for your consideration. I would not consider the bill favorably without this or a comparable amendment.

The amendment, if adopted, would accomplish the following:

1. Districts would be mandated to bus students living more than five miles from an attendance center, compared to the present 2½ mile radius.
2. Bussing students who live under five miles would be optional.
3. If the bill would become law, the first year, full payment or full entitlement would be made for all students bussed as under the present law, even those between 2½ and 5 miles.
4. The second year, funding would be reduced to 75% of the entitlement for any students bussed who live 2½ to 5 miles, with full funding for students over 5 miles.
5. The third year, funding would be reduced again to 50% of the entitlement for students bussed who live between 2½ to 5 miles and full funding for all students over 5 miles.



6. In all subsequent years, the funding would remain at 50% of the entitlement for any students bussed who live between  $2\frac{1}{2}$  and 5 miles.

This phase down to one-half funding for students under five miles would provide a strong impetus to scale down bussing operations except for students most far away. It would give school boards reason to begin to take a look at dollars that could be saved by encouraging parents to get their own children to school -- through car-pools and neighborhood cooperation.

Generally, most high school students drive their own cars anyway, regardless of how close or how far from school they live.

You know that proposals have been made this year to cut transportation aid. These will keep surfacing, most likely, unless we do something to begin to scale down the number of students bussed and the dollars so expended in doing so. Just like medical expenses -- we need to change the rules and get control of increasing bussing costs, and so perhaps free up dollars for educational expenses.

## Proposed Amendment to House Bill No. 2766

Be amended:

On page 1, in line 35, by striking "five" and inserting "2 1/2"; in line 42, by striking "five" and inserting "2 1/2";

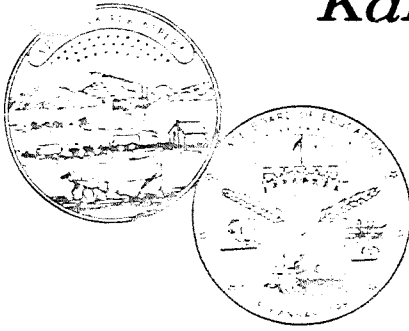
On page 2, in line 49, by striking "five" and inserting "2 1/2"; in line 76, by striking "The" and inserting "For pupils regularly enrolled in the district and residing five miles or more from the school building attended, the"; in line 79, after the period, by inserting "In the 1987-88 school year, for pupils regularly enrolled in the district and residing 2 1/2 miles or more but less than five miles from the school building attended, the per-pupil transportation allowance of the district shall be 75% of the formula-per-pupil cost or 75% of the per-pupil cost of transportation of the district as ascertained in (c) and (d) above, whichever is lower. In the 1988-89 school year, and in school years thereafter, for pupils regularly enrolled in the district and residing 2 1/2 miles or more but less than five miles from the school building attended, the per-pupil transportation allowance of the district shall be 50% of the formula-per-pupil cost or 50% of the per-pupil cost of transportation of the district as ascertained in (c) and (d) above, whichever is lower.";

Also on page 2, in line 80, after "allowance", by inserting ", as ascertained in (e) above,"; in line 82, by striking "reside" and inserting "residing"; also in line 82, by striking "five" and inserting "2 1/2";

# Kansas State Board of Education

Kansas State Education Building

120 East 10th Street Topeka, Kansas 66612-1103



Kay M. Groneman  
District 1

Connie Hubbell  
District 4

Bill Musick  
District 6

Evelyn Whitcomb  
District 8

Kathleen White  
District 2

Sheila Frahm  
District 5

Theodore R. Von Fange  
District 7

Robert J. Clemons  
District 9

Dale Louis Carey  
District 3

February 12, 1986

Marion (Mick) Stevens  
District 10

TO: House Education Committee  
FROM: State Board of Education  
SUBJECT: House Bill 2766

My name is Sheila Frahm, Legislative Committee member of the State Board of Education. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before the Committee on behalf of the State Board.

House Bill 2766 amends the law requiring school districts to provide transportation for all students who reside in the district and live over 2.5 miles from home to school. This bill provides that the mandate and the eligibility for state aid be increased from 2.5 miles to five miles.

The State Board of Education believes this would not be a good policy for the state to adopt. We are concerned that it could have the effect of increasing the cost of transportation for parents who have to transport pupils in individual cars. The transportation of pupils in school buses is also much safer than in a private vehicle.

This bill would cause school districts to increase the amount of money that would have to be transferred from the general fund to the transportation fund which will result in less money for educational programs including teacher salaries.

House Bill 2766 could cause numerous problems for parents who are currently receiving transportation services.

In summary, the State Board of Education opposes House Bill 2766.

ATTACHMENT 7 February 12, 1986  
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE