

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Dwayne Umbarger at 1:38 p.m. on March 12, 2003 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Hensley (excused)

Committee staff present: Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research  
Kathie Sparks, Legislative Research  
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes  
Judy Steinlicht, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Doug Bowman, Coordinating Council on Early Childhood  
Mark Tallman, KASB

Others attending: See attached list

**HB 2231—allowing school districts to charge a fee for preschools; certain limitations**

Doug Bowman, Coordinating Council on Early Childhood presented testimony in favor of **HB2231**. Current law allows local school districts to charge parents for child care services. This bill would simply expand that optional practice to include pre-school services. Reports are that many areas do not have adequate opportunities for children to attend quality preschools. **HB2231** would enable school districts to provide this service where needed. Benefits would be the increased opportunity for young children to receive early learning services not currently available and there would be a greater number of options available for placements of children who are to receive service under IDEA. Research is proving that the early years are critical to the success of our young children in school and in life. (Attachment 1) Committee discussion followed.

Mark Tallman, KASB, testified in support of **HB2231**. KASB supported legislation that authorized school districts to establish childcare centers and collect fees to offset the costs of these programs. As they understand the bill, it would clarify that the authority to provide childcare centers includes preschool programs. (Attachment 2)

Dale Dennis provided verification that current law does allow preschool programs, and stated the **HB2231** is only an issue of fees.

Val Defever, former member of the State Board of Education, offered comments of how important early intervention is and that it would help the schools meet the mandates of No Child Left Behind. Val stated that there are needs in many communities.

Hearings were closed on **HB2231**.

Senator Schodorf made a motion to approve the minutes of March 5 and March 6, 2003. Seconded by Senator Emler. Motion carried.

Chairman Umbarger announced the agenda for Thursday, March 13, 2003 and adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 123S.