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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

1997-98

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on Education...

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
 - (**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
 - (**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

* Contents organized for archiving by: Stefanie Rose (LRB) (December 2012)

Ayes: (7) Senator C. Potter, Jauch, Shibilski,
Grobschmidt, Darling, Huelsman and
Roessler.

Noes: (0) None.

Absent: (0) None.

INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION RECOMMENDED, Ayes 7,
Noes 0, Absent 0

Moved by Senator Grobschmidt, seconded by Senator Roessler,
that **Assembly Bill 20** be recommended for concurrence as
amended.

Ayes: (7) Senators C. Potter, Jauch, Shibilski,
Grobschmidt, Darling, Huelsman and
Roessler.

Noes: (0) None.

Absent: (0) None.

CONCURRENCE AS AMENDED RECOMMENDED, Ayes 7,
Noes 0, Absent 0

Paul Rusk
Committee Clerk

Vote Record

AB 20

Senate Committee on Education

Date: Dec 10

Executive Session

Public Hearing

Bill Number:
Moved by: Grab

Seconded by: Roessler

Motion: Sub S 0337/2 intro adoption

Committee Member

Aye

No

Absent

Present

Absent

Sen. Calvin Potter, Chair

Sen. Robert Jauch

Sen. Kevin Shibilski

Sen. Richard Grobschmidt

Sen. Alberta Darling

Sen. Joanne Huelsman

Sen. Carol Roessler

Totals: 7

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Vote Record

Final

Senate Committee on Education

Date: _____

Executive Session

Public Hearing

Bill Number: _____

Moved by: Grob

Seconded by: Shib

Motion: _____

Committee Member

Aye

No

Absent

Present

Absent

Sen. Calvin Potter, Chair

Sen. Robert Jauch

Sen. Kevin Shibilski

Sen. Richard Grobschmidt

Sen. Alberta Darling

Sen. Joanne Huelsman

Sen. Carol Roessler

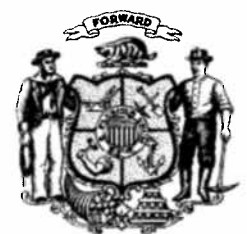
Totals: _____

Motion Carried

Motion Failed



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





**TESTIMONY ON AB 20
RELATING TO THE ANNUAL SCHOOL CENSUS
REPRESENTATIVE STEPHEN L. NASS
DECEMBER 10, 1997**

In 1995, I was contacted by two school business managers concerned with the state mandate requiring an annual school census be conducted in all 428 school districts.

Through my discussions with Mr. Bill Van de Bogert (Platteville School District) and Mr. Jerome Dudzik (Palmyra-Eagle School District), it is clear to me that the current process to distribute school library aid from the Common School Fund is simply outdated.

Last session this bill was known as 1995 AB 883.

This session Assembly Bill 20 (LRB-1554/1), as amended (ASA 1, AA 1 to ASA 1, and AA 2 to ASA 1), would change state law to permit school districts to take an annual count in one of two ways:

1. An annual school census (currently in statute), or
2. A new method consisting of:
 - The number of resident children ages 4 to 20 enrolled in the school district on the third Friday in September, plus
 - The number of resident children ages 4 to 20 attending private schools, plus

- The number of resident children ages 4 to 20 attending home-based private education, plus
- The number of resident children ages 4 to 20 who are not attending school (for example preschool-aged children, dropouts, graduates, etc.). This number may be estimated using a method approved by the school board.

This new method utilizes data that school officials already collect for other DPI purposes. The bill adds a second, less expensive and less bureaucratic, method to receive library aid from the Common School Fund.

Most school districts meet current law by conducting an annual school census. Until I raised this issue with the DPI they were requiring school districts to count all children between the ages of 0 and 20, even though state law specifically says children ages 4 to 20. The DPI has agreed with my suggestion to count only those children required under the law. This change in department policy will significantly reduce the burden of this process on school officials.

Both DPI staff and school officials agree, the most troubling aspect of the census is that the accuracy of census counts is highly questionable. In fact, one school business manager told me that his district will not use the census results for any purpose other than receiving school library dollars. Another school business manager estimated that census counts are off by approximately 10-15%.

Another reason for passage of this bill is the cost associated with conducting a census. In the 1994-95 school year, the Palmyra-Eagle School District received \$24,304 from the Common School Fund based on the census data they submitted to DPI. The cost of

conducting the census in the Palmyra-Eagle School District was \$4,500, which translates to nearly 18.5% of the dollars received from the school library fund. The Whitewater School District spent \$4,000 on a census to receive \$31,629 in library funds, which means they spent 12.6% of the dollars received to complete the census.

In the 1995-96 school year, school districts received approximately \$13,800,933 in school library aid from the Common School Fund. If the average cost for school districts to conduct a census was approximately \$1,500, then the total cost for all districts would be at least \$642,000 annually. The \$1,500 average cost figure is a conservative estimate.

In consultation with the DPI, I agreed to amend my bill with the new mechanism to receive dollars from the Common School Fund. As a direct result of my bill last session, the department reviewed this matter and included these changes in their 1997-99 Biennial Budget request. However, this item didn't make the final budget offered by the Governor. Further, the provisions of AB 20 were to be included in AB 100, but a drafting omission left the provisions out of the bill.

AB 20 relieves school districts from the burden of conducting a costly census that produces questionable results. The new method contained in the amended bill provides school officials with a common sense approach for obtaining school library aid. Both DPI staff and school officials are confident that the new way to count children ages 4 to 20 will improve accuracy and lead to a more equitable distribution of the available funds.

I would clarify that SSA 1 to AB 20 is technical in nature. It combines the version of AB 20 passed by the Assembly with new language contained in the budget signed by the Governor.