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Dennis Hall
Operator's Signature

10/3/03
Date

2003 HOUSE EDUCATION

HB 1331

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Operator's Signature

10/3/03
Date

2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1331
House Education Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 21, 2003

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
2	x		1600-3279
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Linda Liechtnner</i>			

Minutes: **Chairman Kelsch** opened the hearing on HB 1331

Rep. Timm from District 5

At the request of constituents in the Minot area I am bringing this bill forward. Transportation I the city of Minot.

Richard Larsen, Superintendent of Schools in Minot. See Attached Testimony

Rep. Haas Dr. Larsen, if this is passed, and you would start to transport the kids from this area.

Would you plan to continue that indefinitely or only until those families no longer need transportation?

Larsen: Our plan is to continue with the transportation into the future with no end point. And we have had some discussions over the past years concerning if we should be providing transportation to the entire city. This is certainly the first step. We can't at this time.

Kirk Welstad, School Board Member from Minot District.

As we get to the point in facing all the issues that we are with the declining enrollment and the closing of schools. We look at the needs and the people effected by the closing, we do not want

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House Education Committee
Bill/Resolution Number HB1331
Hearing Date January 21, 2003

to create any hardships for people as we move forward. And by not being able to provide transportation to the people, we would be creating some hardships. We don't want to get to the point that we can't provide for the people that we stand for. Encourage you support on 1331.

Rep. Mueller In solving the problem this way. Have you adopted some criteria that will help you determine which of those school settings in your district are going to serve by buses and which are not?

Welstead: I guess we are looking at things that will have certain criteria attached to it with regards to who will be served. The school that will be closed and start our focus at that particular school.

Rep. Jon Nelson I'm not familiar with where Jefferson Elementary is, sounds like it is on the east side. In that area you have two elementary districts outside the city of Minot, do they provide transportation?

Welstead: Yes they do, they cross district lines. The busing is an issue because it is offered in one and not the other. We have lost some kids out of our district because we don't offer transportation.

Rep. Jon Nelson There lies my question. If you are providing a service from outside your district you would certainly be at risk to losing students if that is a issue with parents. On the practical side will you have pick up sites?

Welstead: At this point we are not sure.

Roger Schlotzve, School Board member of Minot District.

When I have been involved with schools closing, they become emotionally driven issues. And this is no different. A couple of things that we have not said yet is Sunnyside school, the far

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House Education Committee

Bill/Resolution Number HB1331

Hearing Date January 21, 2003

reaches of it, is about 3 miles from where we want to move students to and is about 30 blocks wide from Sunnyside, approx. 2 1/2 miles and is surrounded by Hwy 52 on the North and south by the Bypass and railroad that runs diagonally through it, and if your not familiar with this area is out by the Fair Grounds. When we met with the people of the area. The issues are many. But it boils down to two factors that they want to see if we close that school. That is the safety of their children and transportation. Transportation will meet most of those safety concerns. There are no connecting sidewalks, with highways, railroads and cross streets and two large tailor courts in that area.

Opposition - none

Chairman Kelsch Rep. Haas made the motion for DO PASS, second by Rep. Hawken.

no discussion

DO PASS 13-0-1 with Rep. Jon Nelson caring it to the floor.

Closed hearing on 1331.

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Dennis Halliwell
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10/3/03
Date

Date: 1/21/03
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO.

House HOUSE EDUCATION Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number 1331

Action Taken DO PASS

Motion Made By Haas Seconded By Hawken

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Kelsch	✓				
Rep. Johnson	✓				
Rep. Nelson	✓				
Rep. Haas	✓				
Rep. Hawken	✓				
Rep. Herbel	AB				
Rep. Meier	✓				
Rep. Norland	✓				
Rep. Sitte	✓				
Rep. Hanson	✓				
Rep. Hunsakor	✓				
Rep. Mueller	✓				
Rep. Solberg	✓				
Rep. Williams	✓				

Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Nelson

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

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10/3/03
Date

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
January 21, 2003 3:51 p.m.

Module No: HR-11-0870
Carrier: Nelson
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1331: Education Committee (Rep. R. Kelsch, Chairman) recommends DO PASS
(13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1331 was placed on the
Eleventh order on the calendar.

(2) DESK, (3) COMM

Page No. 1

HR-11-0870

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2003 SENATE EDUCATION
HB 1331

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10/3/03
Date

2003 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1331

Senate Education Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date 3-18-03

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		x	14.1 - 30.0
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Andrea Johnson</i>			

Minutes: CHAIRMAN FREBORG called the committee to order. Roll call was taken with all (6) members present.

CHARIMAN FREBORG opened the hearing on HB 1331 which relates to the transportation of students.

Testimony in support of HB 1331:

REPRESENTATIVE MIKE TIMM, Dist. 5, introduced this bill at the request of the Minot Superintendent of schools. This would allow a school to transport students from their elementary school to the elementary school they will attend when their school closes, but the school will not have to provide transportation to all students in that district.

RICHARD LARSON, Supt. of Schools, Minot, presented testimony. (see attached).

SENATOR FLAKOLL asked if there were discussions on transporting students who were closer or farther away as to the equality of it. MR. LARSON stated more parents provide transportation for the students than don't. This specific area is low income/high need area and needs the

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10/3/03
Date

Page 2
Senate Education Committee
Bill/Resolution Number HB 1331
Hearing Date 3-18-03

transportation by the district. SENATOR FLAKOLL asked if that means "all or nothing". MR. LARSON stated the transportation route is being established. There is also city busing available.

There was no opposition to HB 1331.

The hearing was closed on HB 1331.

SENATOR COOK moved a DO PASS. Seconded by SENATOR CHRISTENSON

Roll Call Vote: 6 YES. 0 NO. 0 Absent. Motion Carried.

Carrier: SENATOR LEE

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10/3/03
Date

Date: 3/18/03

Roll Call Vote #: /

2003 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

Senate EDUCATION

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

Action Taken

Motion Made By Sen. Cook Seconded By Sen. Christenson

[illegible]

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Sen. Lee

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

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Operator's Signature

10/3/03
Date

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 18, 2003 12:11 p.m.

Module No: SR-48-5023
Carrier: G. Lee
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1331: Education Committee (Sen. Freborg, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS**
(6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1331 was placed on the
Fourteenth order on the calendar.

(2) DESK, (3) COMM

Page No. 1

SR-48-5023

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10/3/03
Date

2003 TESTIMONY

HB 1331

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10/3/03
Date

Legislative Testimony
House Bill No. 1331
January 21, 2003

Madame Chairman and members of the Education Committee, my name is Richard Larson, Superintendent of Schools from Minot. I am in favor of House Bill No. 1331 because it would allow the Minot Public Schools to offer transportation services for students in buildings closed due to declining enrollment. Presently, 15.1-30-01 of the North Dakota Century Code requires that if a board provides transportation it must be based on a distance criteria and offered to all students in the district.

Presently, the Minot Public Schools does not provide transportation with the exception of special education students and students living on the Minot Air Force Base attending either Central Campus or Magic City Campus. It is financially prohibitive for the district to offer transportation to all students living within the City of Minot considering the cost of purchasing new vehicles and hiring drivers.

The Minot Public Schools presently operates 13 elementary schools, 3 middle schools, and a high school with two campuses. During the past ten years, K-12 enrollment has declined approximately 1,000 students. In fact, since the 1994-95 school year to the beginning of the 2002-03 school year, the elementary enrollment has declined 643 students as indicated on Attachment No.1. During the next three years, it will be necessary for us to close at least one elementary building each year even if the enrollment were to stabilize. This is quite unlikely considering our past enrollment history and projections provided by the Department of Public Instruction.

If the proposed subsection 4 were added to the Century Code, it would allow our district to provide transportation services for students living within the boundaries of Jefferson Elementary School. This building is located on the extreme east side of the district. In fact, some students live on the other side of a four-lane highway that is at least three miles from Sunnyside Elementary School where they will be transferred next year.

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10/3/03
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When parents purchased homes they certainly were not aware that the school building in their area of town would be closed due to declining enrollment. In addition, many of the parents are either single or married with both parties working making it difficult to provide transportation for their children. Last Wednesday, board members and administrators held a public meeting with Jefferson School residents to discuss the impending closure of their school. The meeting lasted three hours with parents voicing their objections and concerns. However, there was general agreement that providing bussing services would lessen the burden on parents and provide a safe means of transportation for their children.

In 2003-04, it is proposed to close McKinley Elementary School that is located in the northeast section of the district and would require students to cross Broadway, a very busy street, to attend a building in the northwest section of the district.

In summary, the Minot Public Schools supports House Bill No. 1331 that would allow districts to decide whether or not to provide transportation to those students who were placed in another school in the district due to closing of a building. Our district as well as others, especially the larger school districts, will be faced with this issue of closing buildings due to declining enrollment. The proposed Century Code change makes good sense in terms of accommodating students and parents considering accessibility as well as safety.

I would be happy to respond to any questions that you might have.

Richard Larson, Superintendent
Minot Public Schools
215 2nd St. SE
Minot, ND 58701

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Minot Public Schools

Minot, North Dakota

Enrollment Comparisons Following Labor Day

SCHOOL	Sept. 1994	Sept. 2002	Difference
Bel Air K-6	432	344	-88
Dakota K-6	567	484	-83
Edison K-5	472	384	-88
Jefferson K-5	123	92	-31
Lincoln K-5	198	198	0
Longfellow K-5	259	252	-7
McKinley K-5	164	128	-36
North Hill K-6	336	325	-11
North Plains K-6	537	455	-82
Perkett K-5	205	188	-17
Roosevelt K-5	171	135	-36
Sunnyside K-5	260	184	-76
Washington K-5	270	248	-22
Erik Ramstad 6th	104	99	-5
Jim Hill 6th	246	185	-61
Total	4344	3701	-643

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