



Enclosure #3

EDUCATION & LOCAL GOV'T IC
JUNE 18, 2012
EXHIBIT 10

Education and Local Government Interim 62nd Montana Legislature

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TO: Education and Local Government Committee members
FROM: Leanne Kurtz
DATE: May 30, 2012
RE: Advisory councils created by statute

Section 5-5-215(1)(d) requires all interim committees to "review statutorily-established advisory councils and required reports of assigned agencies to make recommendations to the next legislature on retention or elimination of any advisory council or required reports pursuant to 5-11-210."

At your meetings held in September 2011, November 2011, January 2012, and March 2012, you heard presentations from members of advisory councils that are attached to agencies that ELG is assigned to monitor. Those councils were the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council, the Governor's Postsecondary Scholarship Advisory Council, the Fire Services Training School Advisory Council, and the Student Loan Advisory Council.

At your March meeting, staff of the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education and Student Loan Advisory Council members recommended elimination of that advisory council. A bill draft to do so (LCEd06) is included in this mailing. Below is a summary of the information you were provided regarding each of the other advisory councils in ELG's purview.

Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council (2-15-1522)

The Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council (CSPAC), created in 1987, is attached to the Board of Public Education (BPE). It consists of seven members appointed by BPE and the members must include classroom teachers, a K-12 specialist, a faculty member from an accredited teacher education institution, a school administrator, and a school district trustee.

CSPAC's mission is to "study and to make recommendations to the Board of Public Education on certification issues concerning teachers, administrators and specialists; professional standards and ethical conduct; the status and efficacy of approved teacher education programs in Montana; and policies related to the denial, suspension, and revocation of educator certification and the appeals process."

CSPAC's funding source is described on the Council's website as follows:

In 1989 an act of the Montana legislature designated \$4 of each yearly certification fee for the operation of the Council. In 1991, the legislature raised the

yearly certification fee to \$6 and statutorily appropriated the remaining \$2 of the fee for a research fund. This fund is to be used by the Council to provide research on the issues before the Council.

At ELG's September 2011 meeting, presenters were Pete Donovan, CSPAC administrative officer; Sharon Applegate, chair; John Runnalls, vice-chair; and Tammy Lacey, member. The panelists discussed CSPAC's annual report, revising the teacher code of ethics, improving education in Montana, teacher training and preparation, and teacher salaries.

CSPAC's budget for FY 2013 is \$113,320.

CSPAC's website is: <http://bpe.mt.gov/cspac.mcp>

Governor's Postsecondary Scholarship Advisory Council (2-15-1524)

The council is attached to the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) for administrative purposes. The Governor appoints the members of the council and among the members there must be at least one person with experience in financial aid at a postsecondary institution and one person with experience in secondary or postsecondary education. The council shall "advise the Board [of Regents] on issues related to the governor's postsecondary scholarship program and other student assistance programs; and report to the governor annually or at any time upon request by the governor."

The Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program handles the day-to-day operations of the scholarship program, also called the "Best and Brightest" program, with policy advice from the advisory council.

At ELG's November 2011, meeting, presenters were Bruce Marks, director, Student Financial Services, OCHE, and LeRoy Schramm, chair. Topics of discussion included merit scholarships compared to merit-at-large and need-based scholarships, scholarships for nontraditional students attending 2-year institutions, and whether scholarship recipients stay in Montana to work. Mr. Marks distributed the council's Annual Report for the 2009-2010 academic year. The report's Executive Summary states, in part:

During academic year 2010, 1,828 students received Best and Brightest Scholarships with a total value of \$2,396,500. This includes 1,191 students who renewed their scholarships and 637 students that were awarded new scholarships. Since its creation in 2005 by the Montana Legislature, the total amount of scholarships now exceeds \$8 million to almost 6,700 Montana students. Of the \$2,396,500 awarded in 2010, \$848,500 were new scholarship awards and \$1,548,000 were for renewals of existing scholarships.

One hundred and sixty seven (167) graduating high school students received merit scholarships. Of those 167 recipients, 19 students chose 2-year schools and 148 students chose 4-year schools.

More information about the scholarship program, including the annual report, is available on the program's website:

http://www.mus.edu/Prepare/Pay/Scholarships/Governors_Best_and_Brightest_Scholarship.asp

Fire Services Training Advisory Council (2-15-1519)

The Board of Regents appoints the members of the advisory council and the members must include a fire chief, a volunteer firefighter, a paid firefighter, a fire service instructor, a person involved in fire prevention, an insurance industry representative, and an educator. Ex officio members include a representative of the State Fire Prevention and Investigation Section of the Department of Justice, a fire control officer designated by the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, and the director of the Fire Services Training School (FSTS).

The school itself offers direct training, curriculum development, certification, emergency incident support, consulting, and a resource center and library.

At ELG's January 2012, meeting, presenters were Butch Weedon, retired fire chief and former director of the FSTS, and Gar Wood, chair of the advisory council. Mr. Weedon distributed a handout stating the purpose of the advisory council is to "advise the board [of Regents] and director of the fire services training school on planning, coordination, governance, management, and control of the fire services training school to promote the purposes of the school." The FSTS website states that the advisory council is "very active in providing direction for the school's programs and its members are also involved in leadership roles with other organizations."

The presenters told the committee that it costs less than \$1,500 per year to operate the advisory council.

More information about the school and the advisory council is available on the FSTS's website: <http://www.montana.edu/wwwfire/profile.php>.