

FOURTH DAY

THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2005

PROCEEDINGS

The Senate met at 6:15 p.m. pursuant to adjournment and was called to order by the President.

The roll was called and the following Senators were present: Armbrister, Averitt, Barrientos, Brimer, Deuell, Duncan, Estes, Fraser, Gallegos, Harris, Hinojosa, Jackson, Janek, Lucio, Nelson, Ogden, Seliger, Shapiro, Shapleigh, Van de Putte, Wentworth, West, Whitmire, Williams, Zaffirini.

Absent-excused: Carona, Ellis, Eltife, Lindsay, Madla, Staples.

The President announced that a quorum of the Senate was present.

The Honorable Robert Deuell offered the invocation as follows:

Our most gracious and heavenly Father, we thank You for this day, and we thank You for the opportunities that we have to serve the citizens of this state. We pray for all leaders throughout the world, for peace and guidance and wisdom, and we particularly pray for our endeavor with this special session for school finance. We ask for Your protection of our Members who are not able to be here and for our House Members who are traveling to their homes for the weekend. And in all things we ask for Your guidance and wisdom. We ask for tolerance and for understanding. We ask this in Your holy name. Amen.

Senator Whitmire moved that the reading of the Journal of the proceedings of yesterday be dispensed with and the Journal be approved as printed.

The motion prevailed without objection.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

On motion of Senator Whitmire, Senator Carona was granted leave of absence for today on account of important business.

On motion of Senator Whitmire, Senator Ellis was granted leave of absence for today on account of important business.

On motion of Senator Whitmire, Senator Eltife was granted leave of absence for today on account of an illness in the family.

On motion of Senator Whitmire, Senator Lindsay was granted leave of absence for today on account of important business.

On motion of Senator Whitmire, Senator Madla was granted leave of absence for today on account of important business.

On motion of Senator Whitmire, Senator Staples was granted leave of absence for today on account of an illness in the family.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE BILL 2

Senator Shapiro called from the President's table, for consideration at this time, the request of the House for a conference committee to adjust the differences between the two Houses on **HB 2** and moved that the request be granted.

The motion prevailed.

The President asked if there were any motions to instruct the conference committee on **HB 2** before appointment.

Senator Van de Putte moved to instruct the conferees on **HB 2** to not deviate from, or accept any changes to, the following provisions in **CSHB 2** as passed by the Senate:

- 1) the phase in to 98 percent equity in the enrichment tier;
- 2) the expression of the degree of equity in the enrichment tier as percentages of wealth and not dollar amounts;
- 3) the weighted system of funding special student needs and programs;
- 4) the enhancements to the small and mid-size school formulas; and
- 5) pay raises for public school personnel.

Senator Van de Putte withdrew the motion to instruct.

Accordingly, the President announced the appointment of the following conferees on the part of the Senate: Senators Shapiro, Chair; Duncan, West, Janek, and Van de Putte.

SENATE RULE 11.13 SUSPENDED (Consideration of Bills in Committees)

On motion of Senator Zaffirini and by unanimous consent, Senate Rule 11.13 was suspended to grant the Committee on Finance permission to meet while the Senate is meeting today.

MOTION TO RECESS

On motion of Senator Whitmire and by unanimous consent, the Senate at 6:36 p.m. agreed to recess, pending receipt of committee reports, until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

RECESS

Pursuant to a previously adopted motion, the Senate at 7:30 p.m. recessed until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

APPENDIX

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following committee reports were received by the Secretary of the Senate in the order listed:

July 7, 2005

FINANCE — **CSSB 5, CSSB 6**

