

Update # 9

The Republican-controlled House Shuts Down Debate, Sends Ill-conceived Merit Pay Bill to Senate

[House Bill 76](#), sponsored by Logan Public Schools Superintendent [Representative Dennis Roch](#), started off bad enough by placing large parts of the current teacher evaluation rule in statute. It also changes level two and three licenses to five, rather than nine, year licenses, thus nearly doubling career-long licensure fees for renewal. Then it got worse and downright weird.

Democratic members took issue with the bill's wording related to teacher performance, something that the bill uses to determine who can bypass typical advancement procedures. For more than three hours, Roch answered questions and contended that his only intention was to give some teachers an opportunity to advance without further schooling. The bill had been rolled over from the previous night when [Rep. Stephanie Maez](#), D-Albuquerque, added an amendment that would increase all teachers' salaries.

When Tuesday's debate began, Roch announced that he viewed it as a friendly amendment, meaning he was open to the possibility of it being added if the House voted to approve it. After more than three hours of debate, Majority Whip [Alonzo Baldonado](#), R-Los Lunas, made a motion for a floor substitute bill that would essentially remove the teacher salary provision added by Maez, leaving only merit pay raises for teachers who rate highly in teacher evaluations.

House Rules allow three hours of debate on "any motion" before a motion to close debate is in order. No debate on the motion to substitute was allowed because the Republican leadership claimed that the three hours on the original motion has exhausted the time, a direct violation of the rules. Democrats appealed to the acting Speaker of the House—at the time [Rep. Jason Harper](#), R-Rio Rancho—to allow time for more debate. They argued that a new time limit of three hours should start, as the rules require, for each new motion. Ultimately, there was no more debate allowed and the bill was put to a vote, but not before Democrats stood up and opposed the Speaker's decision. Each Democratic member, with one hand raised, said, "I appeal the Speaker's decision." Then Minority Whip [Sheryl Williams Stapleton](#), D-Albuquerque, motioned for the Democratic members to leave. [Democratic Leader Brian Ego](#) told the remaining body that he was disappointed in how things played out, then he too left the chambers. When it came time to vote on the amendment, [Rep. Bill McCamley](#) was the only Democrat on the floor. The amendment passed with a vote of 36-1, with McCamley as the only dissenting vote. The next vote, on the final bill, resulted in a 37 to 0 vote as McCamley also left the chamber.

A bad bill was made much worse with no public debate! So much for the "new transparency!"

It is time to let Senators know that [House Bill 76](#) needs to be permanently tabled at its first hearing in the Senate.

What's next in House Shenanigans? Maybe so-called Right to Work

[House Bill 75](#) Why Do we Oppose Right to Work? [Follow this link](#) to hear [Representative Sheryl Williams Stapleton](#) give her reasons for opposing so-called Right to Work and other anti-worker and anti-public school legislation in the House of Representatives.

The version of Right to Work legislation that will be voted on by the House is [House Bill 75](#). This may be debated tonight or tomorrow, but more likely next week (probably Monday); the House has come back into session as this is written. To watch House debate on your computer [follow this link](#). To learn the truth about Right to Work legislation, [follow this link](#).