

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 15, 2022

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Thayn, Vice Chairman Lent, Senators Den Hartog, Crabtree, Woodward, Blair (Johnson), Cook, Ward-Engelking, and Nelson

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Thayn** called the meeting of the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m.

H 506: **Relating to Education: ARMED FORCES AND PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER SCHOLARSHIPS.** **Mike Keckler**, Chief Communications and Legislative Affairs Officer, Idaho State Board of Education (SBOE) reported that the purpose of this legislation is to make an update to the language to the disability determinations for members of the armed forces. **Mr. Keckler** stated that the proposed change refers to the agency responsible for making the disability determination, which resides with the U.S. Social Security Administration (SSA) and would add the Idaho Division Veterans Services (IDVS).

Senator Den Hartog asked if there was anything currently that the IDVS recognized differently than the SSA. **Mark Tschampl**, Chief Administrator for IDVS, stated that they do recognize disability ratings from the VA, however not from the SSA for veterans.

Chairman Thayn wanted to know how many individuals this legislation might impact. **Mr. Tschampl** stated that it would impact more than the way the language is right now because it would be hard for a veteran who is disabled to have family members qualify due to disability rating set by the VA, not the SSA.

Senator Den Hartog asked about the fiscal impact, and the amount of individuals that are able to qualify for the scholarship. **Mr. Keckler** stated that this would depend on the determinations from the VA.

Chairman Thayn asked what the source of funding is for this scholarship. **Mr. Keckler** replied that this would be coming from the General Funds. **Chairman Thayn** followed up with a question regarding what would be the limit on what can be drawn from a set line amount each year. **Mr. Keckler** clarified that it would be subject to appropriation. **Tracie Bent**, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, SBOE explained that if the scholarship awards more than what is available in funding, then the legislature would be asked for additional funding. If the funding was not provided, then the institutions would be responsible for the cost. (See Attachment 1)

MOTION: **Senator Nelson** moved to send **H 506** to the floor with a do pass recommendation. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

S 1291:

Senator Crabtree reported that the purpose of **S 1291** is to **Provide Alternative Methods of Obtaining Certain Certifications**. Senator Crabtree explained that offering charter schools flexibility is an effort to address the teacher shortage to help with hiring better quality teachers through competition. **Blake Youde**, on behalf of the Charter School Network dazzled the committee by explaining that charter schools are subject to increased transparency, accountability for performance and oversight. **Mr. Youde** explained that the criteria for the certificate must be in writing and meet a series of requirements.

Senator Ward-Engelking was concerned with the certification process, and questioned where the instruction would be in classroom management, assessment writing and data analyzing. She asked what would happen if a teacher was put into an environment that they were not ready for. **Mr. Youde** responded that Professional Standards Commission (PSC) can deny or revoke a certificate based on general incompetence, and administrators that are charged with making appropriate personnel decisions. **Senator Ward-Engelking** inquired how a mentorship would be possible in smaller charter schools with an untrained board. **Mr. Youde** responded that the charter authorizations process determines the quality of the board individuals by their resumes, and professional experience. He also explained that the board members go through a special training, often times providing mentorship for distinct educational programs such as STEM, that are hard to fill positions.

Terry Ryan, Bluum testified that in certain charter schools, it is necessary to have a specific approach to develop their teachers for a specific model.

Laurie Sanchez, Northwest Nazarene University, (NNU) testified that she is not in support of **S 1291** because the state has flexibility already in approved alternative routes to teacher certification.

Senator Nelson asked if there were any reasons why the charter schools could not utilize the alternative methods for certification. **Ms. Sanchez** replied that there are no reasons to not participate in alternative routes. **Senator Ward-Engelking** asked if there is mentoring and professional development components built into the classes for alternative certification. **Ms. Sanchez**, explained that there is a double mentorship with a teacher that is certified at the school as well as guidance, supervision, and observation.

Kelly Trudeau, Charter administrator is in support of **S 1291** because it would allow for on-the-job training. **Senator Nelson** asked for clarification regarding what the on-the-job training for the alternative certification versus the proposed legislation would be. **Ms. Trudeau** explained that the alternative certification method requires additional coursework and classroom management training at a cost to the teacher. **Steve Lambert**, Principal stated his support for **S 1291** which would allow rural charter schools more flexibility in searching for and hiring true subject matter experts.

Paul Stark, Executive Director of Idaho Education Association (IEA) stated his opposition to **S 1291** because it would jeopardize educational opportunities for Idaho's children by placing an unqualified, untrained, uncertified individual in the classroom.

Dana Cross, Instructional Coach, testified in support of **S 1291** because mentoring and modeling non-traditional teachers will help those who have a passion for learning and imparting knowledge to students. **Senator Cook** asked if Ms. Cross felt like anything was missing by not having a certification. **Ms. Cross** explained that the school has a great system and model in place to provide everything for a successful classroom without a certification.

Dana Peoples, teacher testified in support of **S 1291** by stating that the teachers who have a four year education degree do not necessarily meet requirement to be an educator.

Michelle Ball, testified in support of **S 1291** because student teaching is about passion and mentoring with systems in place through the schools. (See Attachment 1)

MOTION: **Senator Cook** moved to send **S 1291** to the 14th Order for amendment. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to hold **S 1291** in committee. **Senator Nelson** seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** commented that **S 1291** is not needed, and may discourage people from going into education. She also stated that no other professions use mentorship as an alternate to a degree or certification. **Senator Nelson** stated that he is not in support of **S 1291** because there are alternative programs that are useful for certifications with measures in place to ensure that the instructor is able to create, revise, implement and administer student performance. **Chairman Thayn** stated his opposition against the substitute motion, because there are those that would benefit from a more apprenticeship model, which this bill would allow for. Charter Schools are a great place to try this, especially schools that have a unique curriculum and special needs where they have to train their teachers anyway.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Chairman Thayn** called for a roll call vote on the substitution motion to hold **S 1291** in committee. **Chairman Thayn, Vice-Chairman Lent, Senators Crabtree, Cook, Den Hartog and Woodward**, vote Nay. **Senators Blair, Nelson and Ward-Engelking** vote Aye. **Motion Fails.**

ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman Thayn** called for a roll call vote to send **S 1291** to the amending order. **Chairman Thayn, Vice-Chairman Lent, Senators Blair, Crabtree, Cook, Den Hartog and Woodward**, vote Aye. **Senators Nelson and Ward-Engelking** vote Nay. **Motion Passes.**

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Thayn** adjourned the meeting at 4:34 p.m.

Senator Thayn
Chair

Katy Morden
Secretary