

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 15, 2022

TIME: 8:30 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Kerby, Representatives Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, Marshall, Wisniewski, Galloway, Yamamoto, McCann, McCrostie, Berch, Toone

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. DeMordaunt

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of the legislative session the sign-in sheet will be filed in the Legislative Library.

Chairman Clow called the meeting to order at 8:31 am.

S 1290: **Sen. Ward-Engelking** presented **S 1290** and shared how Idaho currently has a teacher shortage. She explained how **S 1290** would create a incentive program to encourage teachers to teach in rural school districts. This legislation would create a loan forgiveness repayment program and pay for educational courses. This would enable teachers to continue to teach in rural school districts. Sen. Ward Engelking discussed the fiscal note and how the funds would be distributed. She described how other states have successfully implemented similar plans. The State Board of Education would administer and implement the rural educator incentive program.

Rep. Toone discussed how rural school district teachers often teach multiple grades and subjects. **S 1290** would enable teachers to return to school and become educated in different subject areas. She shared how this legislation would encourage more teachers to stay and teach in rural school districts.

In response to Committee questions, **Sen. Ward-Engelking** shared how if teachers are able to stay in a school for a few years there is a higher chance of keeping them in the classroom.

Dale Layne, Lobbyist, Idaho Rural Schools Association and Idaho Association of School Administrators, **Robert Sanchez**, Idaho Business for Education, **Misty Swanson**, Executive Director, Idaho School Boards Association, and **Layne McInelly**, President, Idaho Education Association, voiced their support for **S 1290** and shared how it would enable rural school districts to attract and retain teachers. They shared examples of how teachers have stayed with schools longer due to incentive programs. **S 1290** would give resources to both new and current teachers by enabling them to pay off loans or continue their education. This would help bring more teachers into Idaho and help solve part of the teacher crisis.

Kaitlyn Shepherd, Research Assistant, Idaho Freedom Foundation, voiced her opposition to **S 1290** and shared how it gives broad definition. She explained how it would give the State Board of Education decision making power and would require taxpayers to pay for teacher's loans.

Sen. Ward-Engelking shared how rural school districts are defined within **S 1290** and the State Board of Education would create a rubric for those applying. She explained how the money teachers would receive is taxable.

MOTION: **Rep. McCann** made a motion to send **S 1290** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Rep. Mendive, Moon** and **Galloway** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Motion carried by voice vote**. **Rep. Toone** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1291aa: **Rep. Kerby** presented **S 1291aa** and shared how there is a teacher shortage within Idaho. He explained how **S 1291aa** would create a charter school teacher certification. This would give charter schools flexibility and the ability to certify their own teachers. He discussed how the teachers would still have educational and professional requirements.

Blake Youde, Lobbyist, Idaho Charter School Network explained how **S 1291aa** would enable charter schools to certify their teachers. He explained how other states have created a similar certification. Charter schools have the ability to fire and hire teachers and this would enable them to recruit high quality individuals. Mr. Youde explained the requirements of those seeking the certification. The State Board of Education would issue the certifications to the individuals.

In response to Committee questions, **Mr. Youde** shared the requirements of a CTE teacher and how other teachers must have a degree and may teach any subject. He explained how previous legislation included public schools being able to certify their teachers and reasons why this legislation did not include public schools.

Dayna Crose, Alturas International Academy, **Scott Thomson**, Executive Director, STEM Charter Academy, **Steve Lambert**, Principle, Treasure Valley Classical Academy, **C.J. Watson**, Administrator, Elevate Academy, and **Brian Bingham**, Principal, Alturas Preparatory Academy, voiced their support for **S 1291aa** and explained how this would enable charter schools to attract and retain teachers. This would help charter schools broaden their teacher capability and would enable teachers to have a clear pathway to become certified.

Paul Stark, Executive Director, Idaho Education Association, voiced his opposition to **S 1291aa** and shared how it would lower the standards of educators. He expressed concern over educators not being required to teach within their degree field.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST: **Chairman Clow** made a unanimous consent request to move the adjournment time to 10:00 am. **Rep Marshall** objected. There being an objection the unanimous consent request failed.

MOTION: **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to send **S 1291aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Rep. Boyle and **Yamamoto** invoked Rule 80 stating a possible conflict of interest, but that they would be voting on the legislation.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by voice vote**. **Rep. McCrostie** requested to be recorded as voting as **NAY**. **Rep. Kerby** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:49 am.

Representative Clow
Chair

Elbia Christensen
Secretary