

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 20, 2024

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Lent, Vice Chairman Toews, Senators Den Hartog, Nichols, Carlson, Herndon, Lenney, Ward-Engelking, and Semmelroth

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 Lent** called the meeting of the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:02 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Lenney** moved to approve the Minutes of February 8, 2024. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

INTRODUCTION: Introduction and Welcome of Page Talmage Cardon. **Chairman Lent** welcomed the Committee's new page for the second half of the legislative session, Talmage Cardon. **Chairman Lent** invited Mr. Cardon to address the Committee. **Mr. Cardon** introduced himself and shared that he attended Deseret Study Abroad Academy in Idaho Falls. He described his school and shared that it offered students numerous opportunities to travel abroad. He stated that he recently returned from a school trip to Uganda where students completed humanitarian work and learned about the country. **Mr. Cardon** said that he was excited to serve as Senate page and looked forward to learning about government first hand.

PRESENTATION: Future Farmers of America (FFA) in Idaho - Beyond the Horizon. Delainee Ellsworth, President, FFA; Carson Suchan, Vice President, FFA; Hallye Duckett, Secretary, FFA; Clayton Moore, Treasurer, FFA; Josiah Knapp, Reporter, FFA; and Kamille Mirkin, Sentinel, FFA, presented to the Committee. The FFA student leaders introduced themselves and shared that it was National FFA Week and Career Technical Education Month. They spoke about the FFA program at the chapter, district, and national levels. They explained that FFA offered its members numerous opportunities to develop their agricultural education, leadership skills, community service, and to explore future career paths. They further explained that FFA presented members with opportunities for entrepreneurship, scientific research, and experiential learning. FFA students were also invited to participate in competitions and to attend conferences.

H 452 EDUCATION - Amends existing law to change the distribution amount for the Idaho Digital Learning Academy funding and to revise certain requirements regarding funding and distributions. **Representative Petzke** explained that the legislation replaced a complicated funding model for Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA) with a per enrollment funding model. In the proposed legislation, IDLA received \$430.00 per student enrollment. **Representative Petzke** invited Jeff Simmons, Superintendent, IDLA, to comment on the bill. **Mr. Simmons** introduced himself and stated that IDLA welcomed the funding model change.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** asked if the funding model change affected IDLA's ability to provide service to students. **Mr. Simmons** stated that IDLA was able to continue the same service in the new funding model. He remarked that it was a very scalable model for IDLA and strengthened the school. **Senator Herndon** asked for clarification about the expense side of IDLA's finances. **Mr. Simmons** explained that enrollment determined the number of teachers, administrators, and staff needed.

MOTION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send **H 452** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

S 1359 **EDUCATION - Amends existing law to increase the Advanced Opportunities funding for both public school students and nonpublic school students, to remove a spending cap for certain eligible courses, and to revise provisions regarding the administration of the program for nonpublic school students.** **Senator Den Hartog** walked the Committee through the proposed changes to the existing Advanced Opportunities law. The first change was to increase the total Advanced Opportunities funding available from \$4,125 to \$4,625 per student. The reason for the increase was to provide enough funding for students to complete an associate degree while still in high school. **Senator Den Hartog** shared about another change to funding for career technical education (CTE) and workforce training courses to remove the per course and per year caps which were deemed inflexible and unnecessary. Another proposed change was to raise the Advanced Opportunities funding limit for non-public school students from \$750 to \$2,500 per student. She explained that there was also a change in the way the funding was paid for non-public school students. In the proposed bill, funding was paid directly to the higher education institution.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** asked what happened if a student dropped a course or did not complete a course successfully. **Senator Den Hartog** invited Brock Astle, Advanced Opportunities Coordinator, Idaho Department of Education, to clarify. **Mr. Astle** explained that a flag or hold was placed on a student's account if the student was unsuccessful in a course. The student was then required to pay out-of-pocket for the next course. **Senator Semmelroth** asked if students who have already exhausted their funding were eligible for the increase in funds. **Senator Den Hartog** answered that those students had access to the additional funding up to the new maximum of \$4,625 for public school students and \$2,500 for non-public school students.

MOTION: **Senator Herndon** moved to send **S 1359** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Nichols** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Lent** adjourned the meeting at 3:51 p.m.

Senator Lent
Chair

Lisa Stein
Secretary