

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
DIXON SUBCOMMITTEE
Pending Rules

DATE: Wednesday, January 20, 2016
TIME: Upon Adjournment of Full Committee
PLACE: Room EW41
MEMBERS: Chairman Dixon, Vice Chair Harris, Representatives Pence, McDonald
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None
GUESTS: Carlie Foster, Lobby Idaho; Clark Corbin, Educational News; Helen Price, Idaho Association of School Administrators; Marilyn Whitney, Governor's Office; Tim Corder, State Department of Education
**DOCKET NO.
47-0101-1501:** **Chairman Dixon** called the meeting to order at 10:39 a.m.

Tracie Bent, State Board of Education, explained that **Docket No. 47-0101-1501** updates the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR) Field Service Manual. The majority of changes are technical changes and changes to make the language more concise.

Theresa Pitt, planning and evaluation manager, explained the two sections with the largest changes. A participant's financial participation level, in some cases, wasn't meaningful, the Department felt. The Department felt an individual should have some investment in his or her rehabilitation process. However, those individuals receiving social security benefits do not need to contribute financially to their rehabilitation programs. This shift in how financial participation was determined happened in 2013. She added that 66% of those who are eligible do not participate financially, because they do not earn enough. By reducing the eligibility level from 300% to 200% of poverty level, more participants would contribute financially to their rehabilitation. Ms. Pitt said the department felt this change meets the condition of law and is reasonable, and not so high that services are denied.

In response to questions from the committee, **Ms. Pitt** said even with the change in poverty level percentage required for participation, 66% of participants will still not pay anything for their rehabilitation, because of exemptions, and because their incomes are so low. She added that the average wage of Idahoans puts 50% of Idahoans at the poverty level. The department does not feel there will be a significant increase in the numbers participating in the program at zero financial participation. Of those who participate financially, their financial contribution amount is on a sliding scale, based on income.

In response to questions from the committee, **Tracie Bent**, State Board of Education, explained that **Docket No. 47-0101-1501** does not make changes to the sliding scale already in place. The Docket merely takes those details out of the manual. Things that are not typically included in the rules will be removed from the service manual. The goal is to remove the incorporated rule entirely, to make information more clear and easy to find.

MOTION: Rep. Harris made a motion to recommend the full committee approve **Docket No. 47-0101-1501. The motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Representative Dixon
Chair

Jenifer Cavaness-Williams
Secretary