

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Thursday, February 14, 2019
- TIME:** 3:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Den Hartog, Crabtree, Lent, Buckner-Webb, and Ward-Engelking
- ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senator Woodward
- 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 Mortimer** called the Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:01 p.m.
- S 1107** **Suzanne Budge**, SBS Associates, presented **S 1107**, Relating to Education; Repeal a Section. She said the proposed legislation affects the State's virtual schools, alternative schools, and many rural schools, all of whom have mobile students. She said in 2016, H 603 was designed to address student mobility issues. She stated **S 1107** lifts the sunset from H 603 until the new Public School Funding Formula is put in place.
- TESTIMONY:** **Alan Reed**, Executive Director, Idaho Charter School Commission, spoke in support of lifting the sunset and would like the funds to stay with the student to fill the gap until the new funding formula is put into place.
- MOTION:** **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send **S 1107** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.
- S 1058** **Senator Den Hartog** presented **S 1058**, Relating to Charter Schools; Administrators Certification. She said the proposed legislation was brought before the legislature in 2018. The purpose is to create an alternative certificate for charter school administrators. The current legislation requires charter school administrators to hold a traditional school administrator certificate and the lack of flexibility is creating a hindrance in hiring charter school leads.
- Senator Den Hartog** said the proposed legislation creates a new charter school administrator certificate which will place the certificated individual under the purview of the Professional Standards Commission. She outlined the specific criteria the individual must possess to be eligible for the certificate. She reported that most states do not require charter school administrators to be certified.
- DISCUSSION:** **Senator Buckner-Webb** asked if the charter school administrator could be hired in a secondary position until they had the qualifications under current statute to become an administrator. **Senator Den Hartog** replied the proposed legislation does not preclude that scenario. She stated it would be encouraged, because it would allow that person to grow into the position.
- Senator Ward-Engelking** asked if charter schools currently can hire administrators who are not certified. **Senator Den Hartog** replied in the affirmative. She explained the proposed legislation allows the skill set to match the needs of the charter school without having another administrator on staff.

**Senator Ward-Engelking** asked if the stakeholders were consulted for this proposed legislation. **Senator Den Hartog** replied in 2018 they did speak with the Idaho Administrators Association in 2018. At that time there was not any interest.

**Senator Den Hartog** stated charter schools could still hire an administrator with a traditional certificate. This proposed legislation gives charter schools options. It allows the charter school's board of directors to hire the best qualified person to lead their school.

**TESTIMONY:** **Kari Overall**, President, Idaho Education Association (IEA) spoke against **S 1058**. She stated the IEA believes administrators must maintain valid administrator licensure and have periodic teaching experience in order to be certified and employed as administrators. She outlined the role a school administrator has in the school they serve (Attachment 1).

**Blake Youde**, Idaho Charter School Network, spoke in support of **S 1058**. He stated **S 1058** provides an option for local charter school board of directors to hire an administrator that best meets the needs of their individual school. He said there are other states that do not require the charter school administrator to have an administrator's certificate. The current standards make recruiting efforts difficult for Idaho's charter schools. He stated the proposed legislation allows disciplinary action for a bad administrator. He emphasized the standards to receive the alternative certificate is high and this is not to repeal the current administrator's certificate, but to give charter schools options. **Mr. Youde** said during the negotiated rulemaking they were not able to come to a consensus, so therefore **S 1058** is being brought forward.

**Senator Ward-Engelking** asked if he would elaborate on the negotiated rulemaking discussion. **Mr. Youde** replied the group that met intended to find an alternate certification that would apply to both the traditional public schools and the public charter schools. Unfortunately, they were unable to come to a consensus, therefore **S 1058** was written.

**Rob Winslow**, Executive Director, Idaho Association of School Administrators (IASA), spoke against **S 1058**. He stated the IASA has charter school administrators as members. He explained the current process to move people into the administrator role, which is built on certification, beginning with a teaching certificate. He said there are requirements to become an administrator and the IASA is not comfortable compromising that the alternate administrator certificate is not built on a teaching certificate (Attachment 2).

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Ward-Engelking** asked what was required of superintendents. **Mr. Winslow** reported those duties to the Committee. He said as an adjunct professor at Boise State University's Education Leadership Program, he prepares teachers to become principals. He stated his concerns that the training they receive, while adequate for a principal, is not sufficient for the tasks of a superintendent. He said the charter school administrator functions more as a superintendent; a role of running a whole school system.

**Senator Den Hartog** said in closing, it is important to consider that public charter schools are structured with a team and a specific educational theme. They often need a person with administrative talents to augment the team. The charter schools need the flexibility to hire a person with specific skills outside of a traditional educator certificate. She reminded the Committee there are other states who operate with the alternative certification for their administrator and are doing well. **Senator Den Hartog** stated there has been work to reform occupational and professional licensing, as well as removing barriers to entry for people coming into our state.

**Senator Buckner-Webb** stated she understands from her corporate experience that people with different expertise can be very successful in a unique position. She stated her concern is that in the eagerness for innovation, children's education will be neglected.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** said the charter school movement was intended to be where innovation takes place. Idaho's charter schools are different than other states' charters. He stated he agrees with Senator Den Hartog to remove barriers from entry and not devalue the importance on superintendents or certificated professional staff. He said he is satisfied with the sideboards placed in the proposed legislation.

**MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Thayn** moved to send **S 1058** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Ward-Engelking** said she is apprehensive about the proposed legislation. She detailed her concerns regarding the lack of a professional administrator certification. She stated school administrators have many different roles within a school. Often, they are the teachers' instructional leaders. Without proper training, the unintended consequence makes it harder for teachers to teach, putting learning for children at risk.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** said there are many different occupations that offer different routes for certification; either through schooling or experience. He detailed the years of professional experience the proposed legislation lists in order to receive the alternate certification. He said the sideboards that have been set are high are strong enough for him to support **S 1058**.

**VOICE VOTE:** The motion to send **S 1058** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation passed by **voice vote**. **Senators Buckner-Webb** and **Ward-Engelking** requesting that they be recorded as voting nay.

**S 1060** **Vice Chairman Thayn** presented **S 1060**, Relating to Education; Flexible Student Schedules. He described the progression in writing the proposed legislation. He stated student graduation flexibility is an issue that should be addressed, especially as schools move into mastery based education models. He said if a student has met their educational obligation by age 16, rather than dropping out, the proposed legislation allows them to address other options.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** walked the Committee through the **S 1060**. He detailed the sideboards in the proposed legislation, explaining the college readiness score, core class requirements, and cumulative grade point average. He stated some of the definitions will be set in rulemaking.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Den Hartog** asked if a student meets the early graduation requirement, would they be eligible for college scholarships. **Vice Chairman Thayn** replied in the affirmative.

**Senator Buckner-Webb** asked if students still participate in work study programs. **Vice Chairman Thayn** referred the question to Tracie Bent, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, State Board of Education (SBE). **Ms. Bent** replied the work study program is practice at the post-secondary level.

**Senator Crabtree** stated he is concerned with a high school student's emotional maturity. He said they may be academically prepared and asked if there is any evidence to support students' ability to be emotionally and socially equipped for the rigors of college. **Vice Chairman Thayn** replied some emotional maturity is exhibited when a student rises to the challenge of graduating early. Ultimately, the parent or guardian helps the student to make that decision. He said those same questions were raised when the Advanced Opportunities program was brought forward, and those concerns turned out to be unfounded.

**DISCUSSION:** **Sebastian Griffin**, Student, Nampa High School said the student who takes advantage of this legislation would be more highly motivated and mature. They have had help from their parents and are preparing for the next phase in their education.

**Senator Crabtree** said he isn't as concerned about those who are emotionally ready. He stated he is concerned about the student who graduates early and doesn't have any post-secondary plans.

**Mr. Griffin** replied the most important component of the proposed legislation is that it allows more options for students. He said he is not sure how many students will take advantage of the early graduation flexibility.

**Senator Den Hartog** asked had this been in place when he was a high school sophomore how would he have structured his course load. **Mr. Griffin** replied he would have taken the senior required classes early and taken more dual credits.

**Senator Lent** said from his experience as a school board trustee, the students who applied for early graduation were those that were mature and motivated to begin their post-secondary careers. They exhibited a great deal of self-direction which is a maturity factor.

**TESTIMONY:** **Kari Overall**, President, IEA, reported the IEA resolutions and belief statements which support the expansion of graduation, the promotion of options for students, and the creation of partnerships with colleges, alternative schools, and vocational career and technical programs. She stated the IEA also believes every student should earn a high school diploma or its equivalent. She detailed the concerns regarding minimum achievement scores, student development, high stakes tests, and collaboration of parents and educators. She said on behalf of the members of the IEA, please consider those concerns when taking into account **S 1060**.

**DISCUSSION:** **Vice Chairman Thayn** said the proposed legislation calls for a notation on the student's diploma. He asked if the Committee thought this would be necessary or would it lead to some type of discrimination to the students who did not receive a traditional diploma.

**Senator Buckner-Webb** asked if other measurements in key educational areas would be a consideration. **Vice Chairman Thayn** replied students must have a 3.5 grade point average (GPA) to be eligible.

**MOTION:** **Senator Den Hartog** moved to send **S 1060** to the 14th Order of Business for a possible amendment. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**S 1105** **Vice Chairman Thayn** presented **S 1105**, Relating to Education; Advanced Opportunities (AO) for Career Technical Education (CTE). The purpose of the proposed legislation is to expand AO to CTE courses. He stated there has been a desire from the SBE, school superintendents, educators, and others to use the AO money for CTE courses. He said the AO money pays for the CTE exams, but not the coursework. He said it is his hope with the proposed legislation that CTE coursework will be brought up to the level of academics.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** detailed the efforts with the Division of CTE, SBE, State Department of Education (SDE), Idaho Workforce Development Council (IWDC), Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA), and the six technical state colleges to bring **S 1105** forward. He walked the Committee through the proposed legislation. He highlighted the financial requirements, required age for students to participate, and industry recognized certificates.

**TESTIMONY:** **Representative Kerby** said he has been working to expand CTE programs for about 20 years. He said finding equipment and certified teachers creates a barrier for many schools, especially the rural schools. This proposed legislation gives students the opportunity to have a viable career while staying in their community. **Representative Kerby** explained the work of SDE in the expansion of CTE and AO. He said they worked to avoid any barriers for students.

**Senator Lent** asked if the money for this program would come from current allocations. **Representative Kerby** replied in the negative. He said it would be new monies.

**Wendi Secrist**, Executive Director, IWDC, spoke in support of **S 1105**. She stated this is an opportunity to provide equity and nontraditional pathways to careers. She stated this bill provides a driving educational force through apprenticeship programs. She reported the barriers industries incur when trying to begin apprenticeship programs. The proposed legislation addresses access for students to go on.

**Chairman Mortimer** asked if the apprenticeships are run through a college or a registered business. **Ms. Secrist** said a registered apprenticeship must begin with an employer and then becomes a partnership between the postsecondary education providers in the area. She gave an example of how the program would work.

**Trent Clark**, Chairman, IWDC, spoke in support of **S 1105**. He told the Committee about the post-secondary scholarship offerings from his employer, Bayer, to rural students. He stated the proposed legislation helps all students in the state be prepared for a career.

**Todd Swartz**, Executive Vice President and Academic Officer, College of Southern Idaho, spoke in favor of **S 1105**. He stated the proposed legislation opens many doors for student success. It also allows the workforce training centers to demonstrate how they can help students.

**MOTION:** **Senator Lent** moved to send **S 1105** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**PAGE GRADUATION:** **Chairman Mortimer** thanked Olivia Love for her service to the Committee. **Ms. Love** took the podium and reported her plans for the next year and expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

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Senator Dean M. Mortimer  
Chair

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LeAnn Mohr  
Secretary