

MINUTES
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MARSHALL SUBCOMMITTEE**

DATE: Tuesday, January 14, 2020

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Marshall, Representatives Shepherd, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Abernathy, Berch

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Tracie Bent, OSBE; Dennis Stevenson, Division of Financial Management

Chairman Marshall called the meeting to order at 8:02 am.

DOCKET NO. 08-0201-1902: **Tracie Bent**, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, State Board of Education, presented **Docket No. 08-0201-1902**, which removes two sections that were obsolete. The relevant code section for Continuous Improvement Planning was changed last session to remove references to grade range performance metrics, so this docket removes those references in the rule as well. These metrics are now found on a district's report card.

In response to Committee questions, **Ms. Bent** stated she expects legislation to come forward to implement the Governor's task force literacy recommendations.

MOTION: **Rep. Berch** made a motion to recommend the full Committee approve **Docket No. 08-0201-1902. Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 08-0113-1901: **Ms. Bent** continued the discussion on the Opportunity Scholarship from the previous meeting. She compared information on scholarship renewal rates and average grade point average (GPA) of applicants and awardees from before and after the GPA requirement was lowered. There is a correlation between those with high need and a lower GPA, so this change was intended to help the neediest students.

Rep. Berch stated his concern had been the dilution of graduation rates, but based on the data presented it does not appear to have a dramatic impact. He expects more data to be collected to see if that changes. He declared if this rule broadens the audience of recipients without a negative impact, it seems a reasonable change to make.

Rep. Moon stated everyone currently has opportunities through the Advanced Opportunities Scholarship and that should be considered before dropping the GPA for the Opportunity Scholarship.

Ms. Bent noted in previous years with more limited funding, it did not make sense to widen the pool of applicants. Now that there are additional funds, the Board wanted to try to capture the low-income students the scholarship was intended to reach. She stated high school counselors do a good job managing student expectations on the likelihood of receiving funds, but there have been several awards to students with a 2.7 GPA.

Chairman Marshall called a recess of the Subcommittee at 8:44 am.

Chairman Marshall reconvened the meeting at 8:48 am.

MOTION: Rep. Berch made a motion to recommend the full Committee approve **Docket No. 08-0113-1901**.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Rep. Moon made a substitute motion to recommend the full Committee approve **Docket No. 08-0113-1901** with the exception of **Section 101.02.a changes, c changes and all of d**. She indicated her belief that students with a 2.9 GPA and below currently have opportunities and she wants to see data on the Advanced Opportunities Scholarship numbers before widening the Opportunity Scholarship pool. She remarked this change puts students who have worked hard to maintain their GPA at-risk of losing a scholarship.

In response to Committee questions, **Ms. Bent** responded the only purpose for lowering the GPA was to provide more opportunities for students who are economically disadvantaged.

Rep. Berch spoke in **opposition** to the substitute motion, saying he will not tell those who are economically disadvantaged that they have no opportunity to earn this scholarship.

Rep. DeMordaunt spoke in **support** of the substitute motion, stating numbers indicate the state is not able to come close to rewarding the current eligible students. She would like to move closer to that goal first, before expanding the pool of eligible applicants.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Roll call vote was requested. **Substitute motion carried by a vote of 4 AYE, 3 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Shepherd, Mendive, DeMordaunt and Moon. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Chairman Marshall and Reps. Abernathy and Berch.**

Chairman Marshall discussed the upcoming schedule.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Subcommittee, the meeting adjourned at 8:59 am.

Representative Marshall
Chair

Erica McGinnis
Secretary