

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 09, 2022

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Thayn, Vice Chairman Lent, Senators Den Hartog, Crabtree, Blair (Johnson), Cook, Ward-Engelking, and Nelson

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 Thayn** called the meeting of the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Blair** moved to approve the Minutes of January 24, 2022. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 29367: **Senator Patrick** introduced himself, and **RS 29367**, which relates to education: Civics Standards. **Senator Patrick** provided a brief history of past legislation on civics standards requirements in school. **Senator Patrick** introduced Ms. Sherri Ybarra, Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education (SDE). **Ms. Ybarra** expanded on the resolution by stating that it reflects what students need to know and be able to do as citizens. This resolution would highlight civics and how important they are to focus on civic engagement. Currently the civic standards are buried in the social studies standards, and the intent is to have this resolution clearly defined when the regularly scheduled social studies review takes place. **Ms. Ybarra** stated that the review group will be asked to develop these standards as a separate piece. She also stated that the resolution will address the organization and the presentation of the standards. This will not add a burden to schools or to teachers.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Cook** inquired what the next steps would be if this resolution is passed. **Ms. Ybarra** explained that the SDE will pull the civics standards out of the social studies standards for a review process. After the review process is complete, the standards will go on to a website saying this is what is currently being taught in Idaho schools.

MOTION: **Senator Lent** moved to send **RS 29367** to print. **Senator Cook** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 29368C1, RS 29373, RS 29299C1 MOTION: **Senator Crabtree** moved to send **RS 29368C1, RS 29373, and RS 29299C1** to print. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Blair** provided a brief statement on **RS 29299C1**, which is honoring the life and achievements of Coach Ed Cheff. This resolution recognized Coach Cheff for his dedication, drive, and desire to the success of the Lewis-Clark State College baseball team and for his contributions to the state of Idaho.

S 1253: **Wendi Secrist**, Executive Director of the Idaho Workforce Development Council (WDC) went over the purpose of **S 1253**. The purpose of the bill is to align the efforts of the WDC by facilitating the expansion of work-based learning to the workforce needs of the state of Idaho's agencies. She stated that this would eliminate a clause that prohibits youth served under the council's employment and training programs from being employees of the state of Idaho. **Ms. Secrist** explained that this would allow agencies to consider the youth as candidates for open state positions that they're already funded for, such as the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR). The IDPR is interested in hiring youth apprentices into existing state positions. The wages of apprentices are not paid, however it does allow the state to lead by example in utilizing the apprenticeship model to develop its own workforce.

Susan Buxton, Director of the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, explained that there are dedicated funds to support the apprenticeship program, which will give the student the experience of working for a public entity, and to see what civil and civic service and can do.

Chairman Thayn asked for clarification on how the apprentices would be paid a wage, and where the funding comes from. **Ms. Buxton** explained that the wages would be paid through the state agency, via an open requisition, and then the agency would train them into the minimum requirements for that position.

MOTION: **Senator Nelson** moved to send **S 1253** to the floor with a do pass recommendation. **Senator Blair** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Thayn** adjourned the meeting at 3:16 p.m.

Senator Thayn
Chair

Katy Morden
Secretary