

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 14, 2022

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Kerby, Representatives Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, Marshall, Wisniewski, Galloway, Yamamoto, McCann, McCrostie, Berch, Toone

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. DeMordaunt

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of the legislative session the sign-in sheet will be filed in the Legislative Library.

Chairman Clow called the meeting to order at 8:01 am.

MOTION: **Rep. Toone** made a motion to approve the minutes of March 3, 9, and 11, 2022.
Motion carried by voice vote.

S 1373: **Rep. Kerby** presented **S 1373** and shared how it gives schools the option to have full-day kindergarten. He discussed the fiscal note and how it would provide more resources for students below the proficient level. It was explained how this legislation would provide resources for economically disadvantaged students. Rep. Kerby described which grades are included in **S 1373** and how the fiscal note was calculated. **S 1373** would provide stability in funding while incentivizing and rewarding schools who see an improvement in student proficiency.

Sen. Thayn shared how **Governor Little** is dedicated towards putting money to enable students to become more proficient. He explained how **S 1373** would not put money specifically aside for full-day kindergarten, but schools can choose to put the funds towards it.

In response to Committee questions, **Sen. Thayn** shared how students who are below proficient still have the option to not attend full-day kindergarten.

Andy Grover, Executive Director, Idaho Association of School Administrators, **Sylvia Chariton**, American Association of University Women of Idaho, **Blake Youde**, Lobbyist, Idaho Charter School Network, **Quinn Perry**, Deputy Director, Idaho School Boards Association, **Paul Stark**, Executive Director, Idaho Education Association, and **Marilyn Whitney**, Deputy Superintendent for Communications & Policy, State Department of Education voiced their support for **S 1373** and shared how this would enable more schools to offer full-day kindergarten. This legislation would positively impact economically disadvantaged and below proficient students by offering additional resources.

Anna Miller, Lobbyist, Idaho Freedom Foundation, voiced her opposition for **S 1373**. She shared how after third grade studies have shown there interventions have no impact. It was discussed how this legislation would require taxpayers to put more money towards education.

Rep. Kerby shared how **S 1373** creates a plan to ensure students will be proficient by the end of third grade. He discussed how funds are calculated and dispersed to the school districts. He shared how some students need additional time in the classroom to become proficient. He explained how **S 1373** would create a fund which the legislature could control. Rep. Kerby described how the test scores and money could be tracked to ensure student growth.

In response to Committee questions, **Rep. Kerby** explained how this would decrease the need of supplemental levies. He shared how different full-day kindergarten studies were reviewed to create **S 1373**.

In response to Committee questions, **Sen. Thayne** explained how the funding formula for literacy is based off student's proficiency from kindergarten through third grade. He described how the foundation funding formula for half-day kindergarten has not changed, but **S 1373** would create a separate different fund. This funding would be dispersed based upon each student's proficiency level.

MOTION: **Rep. Galloway** made a motion to send **S 1373** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION: **Rep. Moon** requested a roll call vote on **S 1373**. **Motion carried by a vote of 9 AYE, 5 NAY, and 1 Absent/Excused. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Kerby, Marshall, Galloway, Yamamoto, McCann, McCrostie, Berch, Toone, and Clow. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Boyle, Mendive, Moon, Ehardt, and Wisniewski. Rep. DeMordaunt** was absent/excused. **Rep. Kerby** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:48 am.

Representative Clow
Chair

Elbia Christensen
Secretary