

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Thursday, March 29, 2012
- TIME:** 1:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Goedde, Vice Chairman Mortimer, Senators Andreason, Pearce, Fulcher, Winder, Toryanski, Malepeai, and LeFavour
- ABSENT/ EXCUSED:**
- 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 Goedde** called the meeting to order at 1:50 P.M. and asked the secretary to take a silent roll.
- H 698:** **Chairman Goedde** reordered the agenda and asked **Representative Nonini** to present **H 698**.
- MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Mortimer** said he has had a chance to review this legislation and the committee has seen most of this in prior legislation with the exception of a couple of changes. He spoke to those changes. **Vice Chairman Mortimer** moved, seconded by **Senator Winder**, to send **H 698** to the second reading calendar with a do pass recommendation.
- VOTE:** The motion carried by **voice vote**. **Chairman Goedde** will carry the bill on the floor.
- H 662:** **Chairman Goedde** welcomed **Senator Brackett** to the committee to present **H 662**. This legislation amends Idaho Code § 46-805 Youth Challenge program. This is a multiphase intervention program for youth dropouts that are not yet in the judicial system. This is a structured, military discipline based residential school for at least 22 weeks. It concentrates on educational instruction, practical life skills, experimental learning, and centering. The focus is for participants to achieve their high school diploma or their General Equivalence Degree (GED). This will insure that participants will become productive participants of society. **Senator Brackett** reviewed the changes of the bill to the committee. He said the community is in favor of this alternative high school as it will bring in additional jobs to this economically depressed county. He said there is a letter affirming the federal funds are available. Supporting documents related to this testimony have been archived and can be accessed in the office of the Committee Secretary (see Attachment #1).
- DISCUSSION:** **Senator Pearce** asked the Chairman about the process of this bill. It was his understanding that the money appropriation for this program was killed in JFAC. Could the Chairman explain how this process will work? **Chairman Goedde** said there is still the opportunity for JFAC to reconsider this bill; they could call another meeting. But there is also the opportunity for the Governor, as money becomes available, to fund this program. **Senator Brackett** agreed and said this is the second germane committee action. The House has already approved the bill.
- Senator Winder** said there was discussion with the Co Chairman of JFAC, **Senator Cameron**, earlier today, they feel there is a way for funds to be found for this program. So much of the funding is coming from private donations and federal funds. It does appear the Governor would have the ability to deal with that when the legislature is not in session.

Senator Malepeai asked for an explanation regarding the consideration of the Youth Challenge Program being an alternative secondary school. **Senator Brackett** said that they are in the application process to become an alternative school. **Chairman Goedde** said alternative schools have access to enhanced funding.

Senator LeFavour said there is no question that the offset to criminal expenditures is worth the cost of this program.

Chairman Goedde said 90 percent of the participants of this program graduate. That diploma changes their lives.

Senator Brackett said there has been over \$1.5 million of private contributions raised. There is significant support.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Mortimer** said he feels very strongly about this program. It gives these youth a great opportunity to change the circumstances in their lives. He moved, seconded by **Senator Pearce**, to send **H 662** to the second reading calendar with a do pass recommendation.

VOTE: The motion carried by **voice vote**. **Senator Brackett** will carry the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: Having completed the **Senate Education Committee** business for this legislative session, **Chairman Goedde** thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 2:09 P.M.

Senator Goedde
Chairman

LeAnn South
Secretary