

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Wednesday, March 06, 2013
- TIME:** 9:00 A.M.
- PLACE:** Room EW41
- MEMBERS:** Chairman DeMordaunt, Vice Chairman Nielsen, Representatives Shepherd, Wills, Bateman, Boyle, Agidius, Clow, Gestrin, Harris, Horman, Mendive, VanOrden, Pence, Kloc, Ward-Engelking
- ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative Horman
- GUESTS:** Dan Goicoechea, State Controller; Harold Ott, Idaho Rural Schools Associations; Rob Winslow, Idaho Association of School Administrators; Luci Willits and Marilyn Whitney, Idaho State Board of Education; Jessica Harrison, Idaho School Boards Association, Suzanne Budge, SBS and Associates
- Chairman DeMordaunt** called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Kloc** made a motion to approve the minutes from February 26th, 2013. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 22175:** **Speaker Bedke** explained this proposed legislation grants exclusive authority and responsibility to Idaho's colleges and universities with regard to: finances, personnel, land use, insurance coverage and procurement. He said that some of these bodies use two different types of human resource systems, which takes longer to process. This legislation will help streamline the process. He explained it will help correct issues in cases of private donations used for land use, and development where the contracts are held by the Department of Public Works, who may make changes without notifying the university or college. He said it will allow these bodies to have access to the itemized breakdown of their insurance coverage.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Shepherd** made a motion to introduce **RS 22175**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- S 1098:** **Penny Cyr**, President, Idaho Education Association (IEA), explained this legislation provides for negotiations relating to education to be held in public meetings open to the public. She said it includes publicizing any notes and offers exchanged during negotiations, and provides meeting notices at the earliest possible time practicable or 24 hours.
- Ms. Cyr** explained all parties involved in the process of creating this legislation are in agreement and support it fully. She responded to questions regarding how various groups have responded to the open meetings by stating the members of the IEA were content to have them open, and felt they were done professionally. In regards to these bodies adjourning to executive sessions, she explained that each side would still have the ability to caucus with their own team. **Chairman DeMordaunt** helped clarify the reasoning behind the 24 hour meeting notice by explaining that in some instances these meetings can adjourn late in the day with another meeting the next afternoon, making it difficult to post meeting notices within strict time limits.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Bateman** made a motion to send **S 1098** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Bateman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1091aa:

Senator Thayn explained this legislation creates a funding formula for the Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA), an online portal, dual credit for early completers and makes changes to the "8 in 6" legislation. He explained the change to the funding formula, saying that as student numbers increased, the dollar amount would increase and vice versa. He said the online portal funding is for future ongoing maintenance, and would allow for any provider in state or out of state.

Senator Durst explained the online portal in regards to allowing any providers, they added the language "and approved" because it is implied to the public that classes on the portal were approved by the State Department of Education.

Senator Thayn explained the portion regarding dual credit for early completers, saying the state will pay seventy-five dollars per credit. He said this would also include payment for Advanced Placement (AP) classes and College Level Examination Program (CLEP) tests.

Senator Durst explained the reasoning for adding the AP and CLEP portions was due to the fact that AP classes can be taught by teachers who have a bachelors degree. This change would open that program up to rural districts and teachers with masters degrees.

Senator Thayn explained the "8 in 6" program, stating it allows junior high students to receive high school credit through online summer classes. He said this legislation removes the language for one time funding of this program and defines the term "online course". He explained other added language which allows parents to enroll their child in online courses without the permission of the school district, but with the assistance of councilors to ensure students are enrolling in classes that will count for graduation.

Senator Thayn responded to questions regarding which portions of this legislation originates from the "students come first" legislation by stating the online portal and dual credit or early completers are components.

Senator Durst explained those portions were not added verbatim from the "students come first" legislation. He explained AP credits are weighed the same if taught by a teacher with a bachelors degree, and that they transfer better than dual credit classes due to their standardized curriculum. He responded to questions regarding the verbage for any provider for the online portal by stating that when the private providers asked for this amendment, they had to make a compromise so they added the words "approved provider". He said IDLA needed more predictability in their budget, and this legislation makes it scalable. He explained the funding formula, stating they increased the variable amount by allowing it to track with the average daily attendance (ADA).

Luci Willits, Idaho State Board of Education, helped clarify questions regarding IDLA's funding. She said they needed to devise a new funding formula that is continuous. She explained this legislation gives a base funding based on what it would take to keep the doors open for IDLA if no student takes a class, and a variable funding that adjusts based on how many students are taking classes. She responded to questions regarding approval of classes for the "8 in 6" program, stating those courses need to be accredited so they transfer, and are approved for quality.

Penny Cyr, President, Idaho Education Association (IEA), responded to questions regarding her organization's stance on this legislation by stating they are taking no position at this time.

Senator Durst explained the payment for AP classes would only cover those taking it in a dual credit role.

MOTION: **Rep. Harris** made a motion to send **S 1091aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Harris** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1057aa: **Senator Thayn** explained this legislation allows for kindergarten teachers to visit the parents of their students the first week of the school year outside of school. He said this will allow students and families to transition better into school. He explained that this is not a mandatory program. He said studies have shown that teachers who meet with parents during that first week are able to use the rest of the school year much more efficiently.

Senator Thayn explained this will include charter schools. He responded to questions regarding teacher pay for this program by stating there is no additional money allocated. The teacher will receive their regular salary. He explained in some instances kindergarten teachers have too many students to effectively visit in the first week. He said in those cases the teacher will have to use their time wisely and maybe only meet with those they have not seen or do not know enough about. In regards to meeting in some possibly dangerous areas, he said they can choose a different location agreed upon by all parties.

MOTION: **Rep. VanOrden** made a motion to send **S 1057aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. VanOrden** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Jackie Wright
Secretary