

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Wednesday, February 12, 2014
- TIME:** 9:00 A.M.
- PLACE:** Room EW41
- MEMBERS:** Chairman DeMordaunt, Vice Chairman Nielsen, Representative(s) Shepherd, Wills, Bateman, Boyle, Clow, Gestrin, Harris, Horman, Mendive, VanOrden, McDonald, Pence, Kloc, Rubel
- ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Vice Chairman Nielsen, Representative(s) Bateman and Boyle
- GUESTS:** Dawn Peck, Idaho State Police; Fernando Castro, Department of Health and Welfare; Taylor Raney, SDE; Phil Homer and Rob Winslow, IASA; Tracie Bent, SBOE; Robin Nettinga, IEA; Camille Wells and Tom Luna, SDE
- Chairman DeMordaunt** called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2014 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 22835:** **Rep. Gibbs** presented **RS 22835** stating the proposed resolution was identical to the **H 428**, with the exception of additional language added to Idaho Code 33-507, Section 1, subsection 3c. The words added are: "Such limitation shall include, but not be limited to: any matters relating to negotiations regarding compensation and benefits"...
- MOTION:** **Rep. Gestrin** made a motion to introduce **RS 22835**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- H 477:** **Jason Hancock**, Deputy Chief of Staff, State Department of Education (SDE), appeared before the committee to present **H 477**. Mr. Hancock said the legislation will allow the State Department of Education to pass along the Idaho State Police (ISP) fee increase for fingerprinting background checks in the public schools. He explained rather than establish the fee in Code, the Idaho Code has been changed from showing a specific charge for fingerprinting to stating: "The state department of education shall charge all such individuals a fee equal to any processing fees charged to the state department of education."... Mr. Hancock further explained the history of the fees charged for fingerprinting, using an Excel spreadsheet. (See attached.) He also said SDE funds set aside for the program were due to run out in FY15.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Wills** made a motion to send **H 477** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.
- In response to committee questions, **Mr. Hancock** explained SDE has equipment in the department to process the fingerprinting electronically. He said 14,000 fingerprints are processed every year. He also said the department needed \$194,000 to cover the increased ISP charges plus the department's costs for processing. He explained some new background equipment called "Rapback" which would possibly change the way all fingerprinting is handled. He said in the future the Legislature may make changes to the statute to handle the lower charge that will accompany "Rapback."
- Mr. Hancock** assured the committee only those employees with "unsupervised" contact with children would be fingerprinted and said fingerprinting is critical to protecting children.

Reps. Rubel, Clow and McDonald spoke in opposition to H 477. Rep. Rubel said low-paid teachers should not be subject to increased fingerprinting fees. She said the employers should pay the fee. Rep. McDonald said the state should not earn revenue from the fingerprinting process.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Chairman DeMordaunt called for a vote on the motion to send H 477. to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion failed by voice vote.**

Tom Luna, Superintendent of Public Instruction, SDE, explained tier licensure, one of the Governor's Task Force Recommendations using a Powerpoint presentation. (See attached.)

Responding to questions from the committee, **Supt. Luna** said teachers are evaluated by multiple measures, not just those within the Danielson Framework. He indicated that if a teacher goes through the three years of pre-service and does not meet performance criteria, the teacher has an additional three years to meet the school district's benchmark. However, if the measures of the evaluation are not met, the teacher no longer has a license to teach in Idaho. He said the tiered licensure is a move away from tenure to a model where teachers are mentored more vigorously and student growth is part of the equation for teacher performance and compensation. Supt. Luna said the Governor's Task Force recommendation concerning a career ladder for compensation will be incorporated into those changes.

Rep. Clow said he would like to see the title "novice teacher" changed to "basic teacher." He would also like to see four tiers instead of three.

In response to further questions, **Supt. Luna** said the career ladder portion of the task force recommendation drives the compensation. He indicated in FY15, the rules for implementation will be completed and the actual contracts with tier licensure will be issued later. He also noted that multiple evaluations over a number of years gives teachers time to learn and improve. He said teaching of children is a privilege, not a right. Supt. Luna stated the recommendations are put forth by many stakeholders over many months, but the points of "due process" and "de-licensing" are still part of the discussion.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Jean Vance
Secretary