

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, February 28, 2014

TIME: 8:30 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:** Representative(s) VanOrden

GUESTS: Tracie Bent, SBOE; Audra Urie, SDE; Jane Wittmeyer, Wittmeyer and Ass./Coalition Charter School Families, Inc.; Dennis Stevenson, Rules Coordinator, DOA; Harold Ott, Rural Schools

Chairman DeMordaunt called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

RS 22950: **Rep. Ringo** presented **RS 22950** to the committee. She explained this proposed legislation would extend the current Public School Facilities Cooperative Funding Program to include a new Public Schools Facilities Cooperative Fund Loan Program. She stated the purpose of this program is to assist rural schools in funding projects of \$200,000 or less that address safety or energy efficiency. This money would come from the Public School Facilities Cooperative Fund and is required to be paid back in five years or less. She also stated the maximum loan amount would be \$1 million per year.

In response to questions regarding why this fund has not been used more often for its original purpose, **Rep. Ringo** stated the original intent of the fund was to provide aid for high cost projects. Those who need aid typically do not need the large dollar amounts. She added the new loan function would make this fund much more accessible for small districts with the typically simpler needs.

MOTION: **Rep. Wills** made a motion to introduce **RS 22950** and stated this addition to the Public School Facilities Cooperative Fund would be an asset and would provide additional options for the smaller school districts.

In response to concerns about the potential depletion of the fund, **Rep. Ringo** reemphasized the requirement of repayment within five years of loans from the Public Schools Facilities Cooperative Fund Loan Program as well as the \$1 million limit in loans per year. **Jason Hancock**, from the State Department of Education, stated there is also a system in place, to have districts who use the money for the accounts original intent, to pay back the funds over a period of years.

In response to questions regarding why districts are not using levies as a first resort and these funds as a second, **Rep. Ringo** explained the smaller districts are hard pressed to get more money out of their tax base because their base is so much smaller than the larger districts. She said this fund allows them to get access to the funds they need to ensure the maintenance and security of their schools without adding an additional burden on the taxpayers.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 22994: **Jason Hancock** from the State Department of Education presented **RS 22994** to the committee. He stated this legislation simply codifies the Math Initiative which has existed continuously since FY 2008 as annual intent language. He stated the purpose is to ensure that this program will continue. He added this will require a \$2 million allocation from the current education budget and would not require any additional monies.

In response to questions regarding the compatibility of the Math Initiative with Common Core standards, **Mr. Hancock** explained the Math Initiative works to take advantage of how kids minds process problem solving and taking advantage of those processes. He said this is also the goal of the Common Core.

In response to concerns regarding the limitations of codifying the Math Initiative might have on implementation in the future, **Mr. Hancock** stated the language was crafted to ensure the statute would be up to date, but also included the stipulation that "at least one" of the currently codified options for math inclusion be used. He explained this would allow flexibility going forward to ensure teaching can remain consistent with current technology advances and teaching practices while remaining in compliance with regulations.

MOTION: **Rep. Gestrin** made a motion to introduce **RS 22994**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 23021: **Jason Hancock** presented **RS 23021** to the committee. He stated this legislation seeks to clarify the current requirements for drivers education report submission for reimbursement. This change would allow districts to either continue to report no later than 45 days after the completion of the course (which for some schools is several times per year) or to submit one annual report.

MOTION: **Rep. Nielsen** made a motion to introduce **RS 23021**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 22968C1: **Rep. Boyle** presented **RS 22968C1** to the committee. She stated this is a change to the funding formula for school districts and public charter schools receiving salary-base apportionment based on the full term support unit numbers. She said currently the funds are based solely on midterm support units and this legislation would allow the schools that experience growth during the year to receive funding for the peak number of students and not just numbers from the first ten weeks of the year.

MOTION: **Rep. Nielsen** made a motion to introduce **RS 22968C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 08-0203-1301: **Dennis Stevenson**, Administrative Rules Coordinator for the Department of Administration (DOA), introduced the rule to the committee and explained the necessity for it. He stated it came to the attention of the DOA that **Docket No. 08-0203-1301** had been published differently than what was presented to the committee. He stated the committee was given the proposed rule and not the Pending Rule. He stated at this same time the Pending Rule was adopted by the State Board of Education as a Temporary Rule and is currently in effect. The purpose of this hearing is to ensure the rules being enforced match those that have been approved.

Ms. Tracie Bent from the State Board of Education presented the changes in **Docket No. 08-0203-1301** to the committee. She reminded the committee this docket deals with the metrics used for determining the Distinguished Schools in Idaho which is awarded annually to the top 10% of schools across the state. She said there is no money attached to the award, it is simply recognition for their hard work and performance. She said it was the intent of the rule to make the criteria for this award the same as the criteria for the Five Star System. She said the first version brought to the committee was not the same as the five star rating and this is to remedy those differences. She went over the specific changes, additions, eliminations, and the specific standards schools will have to meet to receive the "Distinguished School" award.

In response to questions regarding the use of improvement on scale basis rather than the system presented, **Ms. Bent** explained the gap between the top and the bottom in a school, from the largest majority to the smallest minority, is addressed and according to these standards, needs to show a 10% growth based on meeting the requirements for the Distinguished School award.

MOTION: **Rep. Pence** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 08-0203-1301**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Kaela Becklund
Secretary