

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Thursday, March 06, 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:** None
- GUESTS:** Shawn Dygert, IVATA; Jen Swindell, Idaho Education News; Dan Sample, ICB; Brett Wilder and Alyssa Stastny, FFA; Jeff Sayer, Commerce; Matt Compton, IEA; Marilyn Whitney and Amy Nelms, SBOE; Jason Hancock, SDE, Ken Edmunds, IDOL, Julie Zicha, Ryan's Rainbow Connection; Dennis Tanikuni, Idaho Farm Bureau; Starla Higdon, Treasure Valley Food Allergy Network; Sara Schmidt, Idaho FFA Alumni; Mark Johnston, Board of Pharmacy
- Chairman DeMordaunt** called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2014 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- MOTION:** **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2014 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- MOTION:** **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2014 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- HCR 53:** **Rep. Rusche** said **HCR 53** will improve communication in workforce development. He said he recognizes the intense tie between education and workforce development and on to business growth and success. He explained the resolution calls on the Directors of Commerce and Labor with the cooperation of the State Board of Education to convene a working group composed of both industry and education in developing policy recommendations to strengthen the link between education and workforce needs. Rep. Rusche indicated he worked with the Governor, the Departments of Commerce and Labor, and the State Board of Education in drafting this proposed legislation.
- Jeff Sayer**, Director, Idaho Department of Commerce, and **Ken Edmunds**, Director, Idaho Department of Labor, spoke **in support** of **HCR 53**. Mr. Sayer said it is the one thing we can come together on that is a priority. Mr. Edmunds said Idaho's economy needs this collaboration to be successful. Education is relevant to the partnership.
- Responding to a question from the committee regarding the professional-technical program dovetailing into the workforce development program, **Mr. Sayer** said it does.
- In summation, **Rep. Rusche** said the vision of K-Career is embedded in this effort. He said **HCR 53** is a tool to make sure education understands what the needs are.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Bateman** made a motion to send **HCR 53** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Ruche** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 589: **Rep. McDonald** explained the purpose of **H 589** is to improve safety of public schools and to increase school distribution for safety in the event the toxicology testing reports from Idaho State Police (ISP) is less than the \$200,000 per year. He explained in researching the price of a toxicology report, it is approximately \$100 per report, plus some additional administrative costs. He said in current statute the ISP receives \$200,000 annually to administer these reports. In **H 589**, ISP would receive the amount due for juvenile testing, not to exceed \$200,000. However, if the amount of the testing came to less than \$200,000, ISP would receive the lesser amount. He also stated the price for safety devices for public schools drives this legislation. **H 589** also requires school trustees to have a safety plan.

A discussion was held regarding the history of the Cigarette Tax distributions.

Julie Zicha testified the need for school safety relating to bullying and teen suicide. **Rep. Rubel** stated her apology to Ms. Zicha for the failure of the schools in those areas.

In summation, **Rep. McDonald** said in 2012, the ISP spent \$415,000 on juvenile toxicology reports. He indicated **H 589** would only affect the existing law if the amount fell below the \$200,000.

MOTION: **Rep. Horman** made a motion to send **H 589** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. McDonald** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Rep. Wills said he supports safe schools, however, he cannot support **H 589** because of the fiscal impact it may have on ISP, in addition to the reduction in funding already imposed by the Joint Finance Appropriations Committee (JFAC) for FY15.

S 1233aa: **Sen. Thayn** explained **S 1233aa** fits well into the Governor's Task Force Recommendations #4: Increase Advance Opportunities. He described the transition that took place in the New Plymouth School District when one of the local businesses volunteered to pay for dual credits. He said dual credits increased dramatically from 440 to 1100. He said **S 1233aa** will assist high school students in graduating early and making a more successful transition from high school to college. He explained the four sections of the bill using a handout. (See Attached.)

Responding to a question from the committee regarding the fiscal note, **Sen. Thayn** said the \$3 million would pay for the 28 percent of Idaho's secondary students taking dual credit, plus an additional \$600,000 for advanced placement (AP) exams. He stated the Governor and JFAC were in agreement with the new monies and that it would come from the Public Education Stabilization Plan Fund.

Jason Hancock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of Education, testified that **Superintendent Luna is in support of S 1233aa**. He said the state spends millions of dollars on Special Education and Title 1, funding students who struggle. He said there is an eagerness to help those who are bright, but do not see themselves as college material. The dual credit participation data shows those who complete college courses while still in high school are more likely to "go on" and be successful.

MOTION: **Rep. Kloc** made a motion to send **S 1233aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Burgoyne** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1275:

Rep. VanOrden explained the rationale for **S 1275**. She said production agriculture and agri-business is Idaho's leading industry and employer. She stated turnover in agricultural education teaching positions has been 36 percent in the last two years and threatens long term viability and quality of the Agricultural Education Program. She said the agriculture programs are found in 37 of the state's 44 counties and impact over 12,000 students, FFA included. Rep. VanOrden indicated the "go on" rate for students having completed agriculture classes is over 63 percent compared to only 47 percent for state general education graduates. She explained **S 1275** would implement the Idaho Quality Program Standards Incentive Grants. It will provide a statewide benchmark for all agriculture and natural resource education programs. It will provide for quality assessment of the agriculture education programs and it will provide incentive grants of \$10,000 to each certificated, qualified instructor that meets the standards.

Shawn Dygert, Idaho Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association President and vocational agriculture teacher, explained the circumstances surrounding agricultural education in Idaho. He testified the need for quality equipment and updated agricultural science technology. He emphasized the effectiveness of the FFA Leadership program. He asked lawmakers to support the legislation.

Alyssa Stastny, Idaho State FFA Secretary, explained the FFA program and its influence on her life. She said her experiences in agriculture classes have helped her in choosing her future educational plan in horticulture.

Dan Sample, bank manager and business officer, spoke in favor of **S 1275**. He said the teaching of agriculture is important to agri-business. He stated the shortage of knowledgeable youth threatens Idaho's leading industry. **Dennis Tanikuni**, Idaho Farm Bureau; **Sarah Schmidt**, Idaho FFA Alumni; and **Sen. Patrick** spoke in favor of **S 1275**. They referred to the value of agriculture education and the skills gained through agriculture education programs. They also spoke to the outstanding success record of students completing agriculture education classes.

Rep. VanOrden was called to close debate. She said the incentive investment needed is \$504,000 for FY 15 and \$1,260,000 annual maximum over time. She also said **S 1275** would create a pilot for agriculture and natural resource education program start-up grants of \$25,000 for local school districts to begin or reestablish an intra-curricular program. This portion of the bill would need \$100,000 annual investment.

MOTION:

Rep. Boyle made a motion to send **S 1275** to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. VanOrden** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1327:

Sen. Heider explained **S 1327** authorizes schools to voluntarily maintain a supply of epinephrine auto-injectors for the treatment of life-threatening allergic reactions. He said the legislation provides protection from civil liability for school and school staff when administering an epinephrine auto-injector in good faith. **S 1327** also amends the Pharmacy Practice Act to allow exceptions so schools may stock epinephrine supplies. Sen. Heider said participation is voluntary. If a school does choose to participate, auto-injectors can be obtained for free via existing manufacturer programs. He also said training of designated school staff utilizes minimal time commitments and can be easily accomplished using existing "no-charge" training programs online and/or completed on scheduled in-service days.

Starla Higdon, Treasure Valley Food Allergy Network and **Mark Johnson**, Executive Director, Board of Pharmacy testified **in support** of **S 1327**. Ms. Higson explained the science behind epinephrine. She also cited incidents where lives were saved as well as studies supporting the use of the auto-injectors. Mr. Johnson described the steps taken to remedy the three statutory conflicts for the Board of Pharmacy.

Sen. Heider closed debate by telling the committee, to remember the proposed epinephrine auto-injector program is free, effective, optional and it saves lives.

MOTION: **Rep. Bateman** made a motion to send **S 1327** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Romrell** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Jean Vance
Secretary